

**MAPPING LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

**Local workshops, focus groups, and individual interviews: techniques for awareness raising and participation**

*Event 4 - Deliverable 4.1*



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| Deliverable No. | 4.1  |
| Event | 4 |
| Authors | UNIRIContributions from all partners |
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# Introduction

The aim of the Event no. 4 is to empower local communities in participatory processes to raise awareness about the potential of local communities in the definition of the local green agendas and to deepen the knowledge about key local players and their influence on green issues. For these purposes, workshops, focus groups, and individual interviews were held in involved territories where local stakeholders and local leaders addressed their spheres of influence, their actions, perceptions, plans, etc. on the theme of the Green Deal and related policies.

 The tasks under Deliverable 4.1 are divided into 3 groups:

* Workshops: carried out in communities involved in the project, the aim was to discuss techniques for raising public awareness and participation, and to build the involved communities’ capacity to identify and map their key players.
* Focus groups: carried out to collect valuable feedback through the facilitation of world cafés, Open Space Technology (OST), and brainstorming sessions. These methodologies aimed not only to disseminate project information but also to foster a collaborative and inclusive environment, ensuring that the voices of all participants were heard and considered.
* Individual interviews: to find out first and foremost the resident's perspective.

It resulted in an understanding and formulation of techniques for raising public awareness and participation.

# The Event Description Sheet (EDS)

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| **PROJECT** |
| **Participant:** | [1] - [Stowarzyszenie Centrum Wspierania Aktywnosci Lokalnej, CAL][2] - [Uniwersytet Mikolaja Kopernika W Toruniu, UMK][3] - [Sveuciliste U Rijeci, Filozofski Fakultet U Rijeci, UNIRI][4] - [Udruga Zmergo, ZMERGO][5] - [Forum Nazionale Terzo Settore, FNTS][6] - [Universita degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata, UNITOV][7] - [Euracademy Association, EURACADEMY][8] - [Dimos Karditsas, MUNICIPALITY OF KARDITSA] |
| **PIC number:**  | [946100365][999836619][998542057][946199790][924949612][999844864][921470707][936282025] |
| **Project name and acronym:**  | [Community-based action for a green transition] *—* [CO-GREEN] |

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| **EVENT DESCRIPTION** |
| **Event number:** | [4] |
| **Event name:** | Mapping local communities |
| **Type:** | [Workshops: in situ] [Focus groups: in situ] [Individual interviews: in situ] |
| **In situ/online:** | *[*In situ*]* |
| **Location:** | [Poland], [Górno, Starachowice, Wiązowna, Elbląg][Italy], [Cosenza, Salerno][Croatia], [Omišalj (Krk), Lisina][Greece], [Karditsa] |
| **Date(s):** | **Workshops:**[Poland]: 30.8 (Górno), 12.9 (Elbląg)[Italy]: 24.5 (Consenza), 15.12 (Salerno), 15.12. (Salerno), 16.12 (Salerno)[Croatia]: 27.09 (Omišalj (Krk)), 3.6 (Lisina)[Greece]: 6.12 (Karditsa)**Focus groups:**[Italy]: 15.12 (Salerno), 15.12 (Salerno), 16.12 (Salerno)**Individual interviews:**[Poland]: 1.6 -15.9 (30 interviews in Górno), 1.6 – 15.9 (30 interviews in Wiązowna), 1.6 -15.9 (30 interviews in Elbląg), 1.6 -15.9 (30 interviews in Starachowice) |
| **Website(s) (if any):** | **Poland:** Webpage with news about the events: [https://www.cal.org.pl/projekty-2/cogreen aktualnosci-i-wydarzenia/](https://www.cal.org.pl/projekty-2/cogreen%20aktualnosci-i-wydarzenia/) Webpage of the outputs of the Event: https://www.cal.org.pl/projekty-2/cogreen/produkty-i-materialy/**Italy:**General webpage: <https://www.forumterzosettore.it/progetto-co-green/>Webpage of the outputs of the Event:<https://www.forumterzosettore.it/progetto-co-green/con-chi-possiamo-collaborare/>**Greece:**General webpage: <https://www.euracademy.org/co-green/>Webpage of the outputs of the Event: <https://dimoskarditsas.gov.gr/4o-diakratiko-diadiktyako-seminario-sta-plaisia-toy-ergoy-co-green/>**Croatia:**General webpage: <https://zmergo.hr/co-green/>Webpage of the outputs of the Event:<https://zmergo.hr/2023/06/na-lisini-odrzan-2-sastanak-zelene-mreze-pgz/><https://zmergo.hr/2023/10/zelena-mreza-fokusira-se-na-teme-prehrambene-nesigurnosti-i-potencijalima-obnovljive-energije-u-pgz/> |
| **Participants** |
| Female: | 255(Italy: 123, Greece: 20, Croatia: 21, Poland: 91) |
| Male: | 138(Italy: 75, Greece: 11, Croatia: 11, Poland: 41) |
| Non-binary: | 8(Italy: 0, Greece: 0, Croatia: 0, Poland: 8) |
| From country 1 [POLAND]: | 140 (workshops: 29; individual interviews: 111) |
| From country 2 [ITALY]: | 198 (workshops: 165, focus groups: 33) |
| From country 3 [CROATIA]: | 32 (workshops:32) |
| From country 4 [GREECE]: | 31 (workshop: 31) |
| Total number of participants: | 401 | From total number of countries: | 4 |
| **Description***Provide a short description of the event and its activities.* |
| **Workshops*** **Poland**

In Poland were held 2 workshops, in Górno and Elbląg, where community mapping issues were discussed.***Górno***Activity ideas raised during group discussion:1. environmental knowledge competition (building environmental awareness)2. ecological experience garden - park, trees, ecological play and experience area,hammocks, etc.3. waste bins at Cedzyna lagoon4. environmental display boards5. environmental competitions/contests (e.g. drawing, film, mural)6. environmental gadgets (reusable bags)Based on these proposals, the idea of a Communal Environmental Festival was born, which will be preceded by a community clean-up campaign and an environmental knowledge competition.The main theme of the festival is ecology. Among other things, the festival will include a summary of the clean-up campaign and environmental competition. The prizes will also be ecological and promote ecology.At the end of the meeting, several suggestions for the name of the festival were made: Eco-style in the municipality of Górno, Eco rally, Eco-order, Ekofestival, and Property action.***Elbląg***The discussion concentrated on environmental challenges, such as:- The city was rebuilt from scratch, which led to a lack of cohesion. - Non-environmental friendly local policy. - Climate change in the city and infrastructural policy which make it worst (heat maps, lack of micro-green areas)- Lack of space for common activities. - Issue with the public transportation system, the city is focused on cars rather than those who use public transport. - Safety issues with some local neighborhoods.The participants also identified resources: - developed network of bicycle paths- developed city parks (especially Bażantarnia and Dolnika)- active young people and seniors, Youth city council, non-governmental organisation actions- support from local policymakers. - some infrastructural interventions. In the future tasks of the project, the activists based on resources will address one of the challenges in the CO-Green project. First ideas concentrate on:-Building a joint alliance of teens from the local youth council and active citizens from the seniors' clubs. -Working on micro-projects focused on environmentally friendly local policies. -Common actions such as refurbishing micro-green squares in hot spots. -Building activities for knowledge exchange between involved groups.* **Italy**

For Event 4, the Forum Nazionale del Terzo Settore put in place two processes, the first convened in Cosenza in May 2023, followed by a second in Salerno on December 15th (with two workshops) and 16th 2023. These gatherings were characterized by the implementation of non-formal training methodologies and tools, strategically employed to encourage active participation and engagement in bottom-up processes.***Roggiano Gravina, Cosenza*** The groups tackled a number of themes dealing with a participatory framework, emphasizing the need to involve community members at every stage, from planning to implementation and evaluation. This not only ensures that initiatives align with local needs but also fosters a sense of ownership and pride among community members. Through a combination of education, engagement, and action, the community becomes a driving force in the green transition, creating a sustainable and resilient future.In detail, the addressed topics have been:1. Community development:- participatory approach: Engage community members in identifying local needs and priorities related to environmental sustainability. Establish community-driven committees to lead green initiatives.- examples of activities: develop community gardens for sustainable agriculture, initiate local recycling programmes, and create green spaces that enhance both environmental and social well-being.- capacity building: provide training on sustainable practices, resource management, and community organizing to empower residents to actively contribute to the green transition.2. Educating the community:- participatory learning: facilitate workshops and interactive sessions where community members share traditional and local knowledge related to sustainable practices.- Hands-on training: organise practical sessions on composting, energy conservation, and eco-friendly construction methods, allowing community members to apply their learning directly.- Information dissemination: use local communication channels and technologies to share information on sustainable living, emphasizing the connection between individual actions and broader environmental impacts.3. Climate change:- Local impact assessment: work with the community to identify and assess specific climate change impacts in the local context, such as changing weather patterns or threats to local ecosystems.- Adaptation strategies: collaboratively develop and implement adaptation strategies, such as introducing drought-resistant crops, restoring local ecosystems, and building climate-resilient infrastructure.- Mitigation measures: encourage the adoption of renewable energy sources, promote energy efficiency, and organise tree-planting campaigns to offset carbon emissions at the community level.4. Education and awareness-raising:- Campaigns and events: organise community-wide events, fairs, and campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of sustainable living and the benefits of the green transition.- Digital outreach: utilise social media and other digital platforms to share success stories, tips, and educational content, fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility.- Cultural integration: integrate environmental education into cultural events, celebrating the community's connection to nature and emphasizing the preservation of local ecosystems.***Grand Hotel Salerno, Salerno*** (first workshop on December 15thThe starting point was that the concepts listed below are integrated into the decision-making processes and activities, ensuring that the community is actively involved in shaping its sustainable future. The emphasis is on inclusivity, collaboration, and recognising the diverse needs and perspectives within the community. By addressing global citizenship, engaging third-sector organisations, considering gender issues, and focusing on environmental challenges, the community-led green transition becomes a holistic and empowering endeavour that benefits both the local population and the broader global environment:1. Global citizenship:- Community Awareness: foster a sense of global citizenship by helping community members understand the interconnectedness of local actions and their global environmental impact.- International collaboration: encourage partnerships with global organisations, sharing best practices and learning from successful green initiatives in other communities worldwide.- Cross-cultural exchange: facilitate exchanges and dialogues with communities facing similar environmental challenges, promoting the exchange of ideas and solutions on a global scale.2. Third sector organisations:- Collaborative partnerships: actively engage and collaborate with non-profit organisations, community groups, and NGOs specializing in environmental sustainability.- Resource Mobilisation: Work together with third-sector organisations to secure funding, technical expertise, and resources for green initiatives within the community.- Capacity Building: Utilise the expertise of these organisations to build the capacity of community members in areas such as sustainable agriculture, waste management, and renewable energy.3. Gender issues:- Inclusive decision-making: ensure the active participation of women in decision-making processes related to environmental initiatives, recognizing the unique perspectives and knowledge they bring.- Empowerment programmes: implement programmes that empower women with skills in sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and environmental conservation, enabling them to play key roles in the green transition.- Gender-responsive policies: develop policies that address gender disparities and ensure that the benefits of green development are equitably distributed among all community members, irrespective of gender.4. Environmental issues:- Localised solutions: tailor environmental initiatives to the specific needs and challenges of the community, addressing issues such as water scarcity, deforestation, and pollution. - Eco-friendly infrastructure: collaboratively design and implement infrastructure projects that promote eco-friendly practices, such as sustainable housing, rainwater harvesting, and green transportation options.- Biodiversity conservation: implement strategies to protect and enhance local biodiversity, including reforestation projects, wildlife conservation efforts, and the preservation of natural habitats.***Grand Hotel Salerno, Salerno*** (second workshop on December 15th)The focus of discussion was on the implications of climate change, green transition, and vulnerabilities in local communities.1. Environmental issues:- Community mapping: engage community members in mapping local environmental issues such as pollution, deforestation, and water scarcity. This participatory approach ensures that the community's unique challenges are identified and addressed.- Sustainable resource management: collaboratively design and implement projects that promote sustainable resource management, including waste reduction, recycling programmes, and the conservation of natural habitats.- Green infrastructure: develop and adopt eco-friendly infrastructure solutions such as green buildings, renewable energy installations, and sustainable transportation options to mitigate the impact of human activities on the environment.2. Discrimination:- Inclusive decision-making: foster an inclusive decision-making process that ensures the participation of all community members, regardless of gender, ethnicity, or socio-economic status. - Anti-discrimination training: conduct workshops and training sessions to raise awareness about the impacts of discrimination and promote inclusivity and diversity within the community.- Equitable resource distribution: ensure that the benefits of green development are distributed equitably, addressing any historical disparities and working towards social justice within the community.3. Vulnerability: - Risk assessments: collaboratively assess the community's vulnerabilities to environmental and social risks, considering factors such as geography, climate, and socio-economic conditions. - Community resilience programs: Develop and implement resilience-building programs that empower the community to adapt to changing environmental conditions, ensuring that vulnerable populations receive the necessary support. - Early warning systems: establish community-based early warning systems to mitigate the impact of extreme weather events and other climate-related risks, involving community members in planning and implementation.4. Climate Change: - Adaptation strategies: work with the community to identify and implement climate adaptation strategies, such as sustainable agriculture practices, water management solutions, and the development of climate-resilient infrastructure. - Mitigation measures: collaborate on initiatives to reduce the community's carbon footprint, including the promotion of renewable energy, afforestation projects, and energy-efficient practices. - Climate education: conduct educational programs on the local impacts of climate change, empowering community members to make informed decisions and take collective action to address this global challenge.In the participatory framework, these concepts are interconnected, recognizing that addressing environmental issues and climate change involves a holistic approach that considers social dynamics and vulnerabilities. The aim is to empower the community to collectively overcome discrimination, enhance resilience, and actively contribute to a green transition that is just, inclusive, and sustainable for all.***Grand Hotel Salerno, Salerno*** (December 16th)Discussion focussed on climate change, the green transition, and the role of social economy organisations in ensuring general interest, social justice, and sustainability:Climate Change:1. Shared awareness: the workshop participants gained a shared awareness of the local impacts of climate change, realizing that shifts in weather patterns, extreme events, and changes in ecosystems are not abstract global issues but tangible experiences in our community.2. Community resilience: the discussion led to an understanding that addressing climate change is not solely about mitigating emissions but also about building community resilience. There was a recognition of the need to adapt to local climate challenges through sustainable practices and infrastructure.3. Call for action: the workshop participants expressed a collective sense of urgency and responsibility. There was a unanimous call for immediate action at the community level, emphasizing the importance of each individual's contribution to a more sustainable and climate-resilient future.Green Transition:1. Local vision: through the discussion, a local vision for the green transition emerged. Participants envisioned a community characterised by renewable energy sources, sustainable agriculture, waste reduction, and green spaces, promoting a healthier and more vibrant living environment.2. Inclusive decision-making: the participants highlighted the significance of involving the entire community in decision-making processes related to the green transition. They stressed the need for diverse perspectives, ensuring that the transition is inclusive and addresses the specific needs of all community members.3. Economic opportunities: there was a shared understanding that the green transition presents economic opportunities for the community. Participants discussed the potential for job creation through initiatives such as community gardens, energy-efficient projects, and eco-friendly businesses.Role of social economy organisations:1. recognizing contributions: The workshop participants recognised and celebrated the contributions of existing social economy organisations in the community. Examples were shared, showcasing how these organisations have been actively working towards social justice, sustainability, and the well-being of the community.2. Advocacy for collaboration: the discussion emphasised the importance of collaboration between social economy organisations and the broader community. Participants advocated for these organisations to serve as bridges, connecting resources, expertise, and opportunities to ensure that the benefits of the green transition are shared equitably.3. Equity and access: there was a strong consensus that social economy organisations play a critical role in ensuring that the benefits of sustainability initiatives reach everyone. The discussion emphasised the need to prioritise equity, address social disparities, and provide equal access to green opportunities.Next Steps:1. Community action plan: as a result of the workshop, participants expressed enthusiasm for developing a community action plan. This plan would outline specific steps, projects, and timelines for implementing sustainable practices and fostering the green transition.2. Formation of task forces: participants discussed the formation of task forces that would focus on key areas such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and waste reduction. These task forces would include members from social economy organisations, local government, and community residents.3. Continuous dialogue: the workshop concluded with a commitment to maintaining an ongoing dialogue. Participants recognised the importance of continuous communication to track progress, address challenges, and celebrate successes on the journey towards a sustainable, just, and resilient community.* **Croatia**

For this event were organized two workshops with people from local areas, who are involved or work in the following: local governmental authorities, health services, non-governmental organisations, sports clubs, and individual interested parties. All have an interest in Green issues and all are active in the local community. These workshops were held in the local community, one in Lisina on the hills of the mountain Učka, a Nature Park, and the other on the island of Krk, in Omišalj.***Lisina*** Representatives from eleven different associations from our county came to the workshop: DND Opatija, NZZJZ PGC, Lisina avantura, ERIPIO, Žmergo, Tiko, Association tourist guide "Liburnija", Bez granica, TIR, Civic Initiative Kantrida, PD Lisina.For the first part of the meeting, Rajko Bačnar from the Association Lisina Adventure presented their volunteer work and various activities of the association: monitoring and monitoring activities in the forest - including excessive felling of trees by Croatian Forests, holding survival courses, visiting and introducing those interested to bunkers in the Lisina area, beekeeping section, and mapping plants.Then those present discussed in smaller groups the questions we had suggested. When they had finished, the following findings were suggested:* It is important to map the needs of the local community, to see what they are interested in and what they would like to do:
* When doing this it is important to be aware that some issues at that particular point in time might be a top priority of that community, even though it may not seem so important to those from outside of it. Those present said that it was imperative to address the issues that the local community find important so that they are motivated to work on these problems. Coupled with this, it is important to make sure that whatever is suggested is attainable so as not to demotivate them.
* It is necessary to be extremely proactive and approach citizens in the local community and not wait for them to come with their problems. The methods used to do this should be relevant to that local community, for example through social media, face to face in a local meeting spot. They should also take into consideration that different generations, and different locations (rural/urban areas) might use different means of communication, where there is not a “one size fits all approach”.
* It is good to focus on the micro-level, with small groups of citizens. Such activities can always be applied in other areas, but activators/trainers should not be afraid of the very small scale in their activities. Others will most probably join in when they see that something is happening.
* Approaching citizens face to face is very important since then they can talk openly and freely about what issues are of interest to them. This is harder work of the trainers because they have to spend more time doing this.

***Omišalj (Krk)***The workshop in Omišalj (island of Krk) was held in the frame of the third meeting of the Green Network of the Primorje Gorski Kotar County and was hosted by the Association for the Improvement of Omišalj in cooperation with colleagues and the Transition Initiative of the Island of Krk – TIKO. Zoran Skala presented the relevant work of their island citizens' initiative.Those present were then divided into smaller groups and asked to give their ideas about training animators: * Those attending highlighted the importance of working with small groups, since it was easier for people to feel included and involved. When there are large groups then some people may not participate and feel excluded.
* It is important to be aware of what a community can and cannot do – some activities and actions may not be possible and appropriate at a particular time.
* The right channels of communication should be carefully considered whereby the differences in local communicates should be accounted for (i.e. generational, working/non-working/retired populations, gender). Activities should also be tailored to the interests of local communities, and those living within them.
* It is very important to maintain a positive atmosphere and offer examples of good practice. It is very easy to slip into discussions about problems, which are often demotivating and create a sense of apathy in the community. Therefore, it is good to focus on the positive, see what could work, and offer achievable goals.
* **Greece**

***Karditsa***During the workshop, there was a discussion about techniques for raising public awareness and participation. Participants not only shared previous best practices but also introduced new ideas. In summary, the following techniques were proposed:* Utilize platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to spread information and encourage participation.
* Organize town hall meetings and workshops to discuss issues and encourage community participation.
* Install easy-to-read information corners in public spaces to provide information and promote community involvement.
* Partner with local newspapers, radio stations, or TV channels to share news and updates about community initiatives.
* Create a user-friendly website or app with interactive features for residents to stay informed and participate in online discussions.
* Visit local schools to educate students about community issues, encouraging them to involve their families.
* Use public art installations to convey messages and create awareness.
* Organize opportunities for community members to actively contribute to local projects or conservation efforts.
* Conduct short surveys, online or offline, to gather feedback and opinions from the public on various community matters.

It was highlighted that there is a need to create and manage a local list of engaged stakeholders. This list will enable anyone interested in receiving feedback from active citizens to connect with these stakeholders. The discussion about the management and use of this list concluded with the decision to start creating it in future Co-Green events.**Focus groups*** **Italy**

Three focus groups were organized where the Co-Green Project's objectives were comprehensively presented, and insights from preceding meetings were shared. Valuable feedback was systematically collected through the facilitation of world cafés, Open Space Technology (OST), and brainstorming sessions. These methodologies aimed not only to disseminate project information but also to foster a collaborative and inclusive environment, ensuring that the voices of all participants were heard and considered.***Salerno (first focus group)***An integral aspect of the focus group discussion involved engaging with a group of young individuals. The focus of this interaction was to deliberate and establish an appropriate language that would facilitate a seamless intergenerational dialogue. Recognising the significance of empowering younger generations, the conversation aimed to enable their participation in community development and environmental issues in a manner that is consensual, liberating, and democratically informed. This deliberate effort to involve the youth not only underscores the commitment to inclusivity but also ensures a dynamic and diverse perspective in shaping the Co-Green Project's trajectory.***Salerno (second focus group)***A profound exploration of global citizenship, gender dynamics, and environmental concerns unfolded through the application of the Open Space Technology (OST) methodology, guided by the expertise of facilitators and specialists in the respective fields.Contemporary existence in territories and communities has become an intricate challenge, impacting individuals, citizens, and the Third Sector alike. Particularly, community spaces find themselves amidst significant shifts—social, environmental, and economic—largely influenced by the pervasive digitisation of everyday life. This comprehensive transformation is not without consequence, contributing to heightened fragility in large segments of the population. While some risks are transient, many others manifest as enduring challenges, necessitating a collective and concerted response.The pervasive digital mediatisation of daily life is a significant driving force behind these transformative processes. It has reshaped the dynamics of communities, posing both opportunities and challenges that demand innovative solutions. Amidst these shifts, the fragility of certain population segments has increased, and the risks they face are often not merely temporary but entrenched.***Salerno (third focus group)***In the context of the green transition, inhabiting territories and communities presents a multifaceted challenge that extends beyond the traditional realms of social, environmental, and economic considerations. The participants highlighted the complexity of this challenge for individuals, citizens, and the Third Sector.1. Changing community spaces:- Social transformation: green transition acknowledges that community spaces are undergoing significant social changes. The emphasis is on fostering a sense of shared responsibility and collaboration within these spaces to collectively address environmental challenges.- Environmental considerations: the green transition recognizes the impact of human activities on the environment and aims to reshape community spaces in a way that promotes sustainable practices, conservation of natural resources, and resilience to environmental changes.- Economic realignment: economic considerations in the green transition involve transitioning towards a more circular and sustainable economy. This includes supporting local green businesses, creating green jobs, and promoting economic activities that contribute to environmental well-being.2. Digital mediatisation and its influence:- Leveraging digital innovation: recognizing the influence of digital mediatisation, the green transition explores innovative ways to leverage technology for environmental sustainability. This may involve digital platforms for community engagement, smart city solutions for resource optimization, and data-driven approaches to monitor and manage environmental impacts.- Digital inclusion: in the green transition framework, efforts are made to ensure that digital advancements are inclusive. This involves addressing the digital divide and ensuring that technology is accessible to all, thereby democratizing the benefits of digital solutions for a sustainable future.3.Increasing fragility and risks:- Vulnerability assessment: the green transition acknowledges the increase in the fragility of large segments of the population due to environmental, social, and economic changes. Vulnerability assessments become integral to identifying and addressing specific risks faced by communities, especially those related to climate change and environmental degradation.- Permanent and temporary risks: in the green transition, there is an understanding that risks faced by communities can be both temporary and permanent. Temporary risks, such as extreme weather events, necessitate immediate responses, while permanent risks, such as loss of biodiversity, require sustained and long-term solutions.4. Collaborative solutions:- Community collaboration: the green transition emphasizes collaborative approaches to address the complex challenges faced by communities. Community-led initiatives, participatory decision-making processes, and partnerships between citizens, local authorities, and the Third Sector become key components of the transition.- Innovation for improvement: the text underscores the importance of finding innovative ways to improve life in communities. In the green transition, innovation spans technological advancements, sustainable practices, and social solutions, all aimed at enhancing the well-being of communities while minimizing environmental impact.Recognizing the imperative of addressing these multifaceted challenges collaboratively, the focus extends to finding inventive ways to enhance the quality of life within our communities. This calls for a strategic and holistic approach, blending traditional wisdom with cutting-edge innovations, and fostering a dialogue that spans diverse perspectives. As communities navigate these changes, it becomes paramount to harness collective intelligence and work towards solutions that not only mitigate risks but also cultivate resilience and sustainability in the face of evolving circumstances. The discussions in Salerno, framed by the OST methodology, exemplify a commitment to such collaborative endeavours, aiming to pave the way for transformative initiatives that better the lives of individuals and communities alike.**Individual interviews*** **Poland**

The tasks included in Event 4 were set to be carried out in cascade form after discussions in the four local communities. In the first instance-activists and trainers involved in the project conducted 3-4 individual interviews with stakeholders in their localities. In this case, the aim was to find out first and foremost the perspective of the resident. The time frame for the local activists and trainers to conduct interviews with stakeholders was between 1.06.2023 and 15.09.2023, not to put too much pressure on them that could have led to demotivation.***Górno, Wiązowna, Elbląg, Starachowice***30 interviews were held in Górno, Wiązowna, and Elbląg, while 21 in Starachowice.Self-diagnostic techniques were used to map the local resources, actors and specificities of thelocal communities involved. The intention was to involve local community representatives in theprocess of producing/gathering knowledge about their communities. As part of the activity,project participants were trained in the process of collecting qualitative data about theirsocial and natural environment and were given research tools which they later used. Eachparticipant&#39;s task was to reach out to an appropriate number of other local communityresidents such as neighbours, relatives, coworkers, friends and conduct a short diagnosticinterview, the key findings of which were plotted on a mapping sheet. Issues addressedincluded the specifics of the community, its environmental problems, significant places,people and institutions, ideas to move the status quo. The activity resulted in stronglycommunity-specific maps used during planning the next actions. The project participantsthemselves became involved in the process of reflective exercise and identifying thestrengths and weaknesses of their localities. |