

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	[2] - [Fundacja Nowej Wspólnoty] (NCF)
PIC number:	[879691352]
Project name and acronym:	[COMPASS Europe: Civic Education and Dialogue for Europe's Future] — [COMPASS Europe]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	[4]
Event name:	NECE Lab: Working with Polarised Groups in Civic Education
Type:	[awareness-raising]
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	[Poland], [Warsaw]
Date(s):	[12-14.07.2026]
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.ncf.org.pl/ https://www.fnw.org.pl/aktualnosci1/nece-lab-1
Participants	
Female:	21
Male:	6
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Poland]:	16
From country 2 [Croatia]:	2
From country 3 [Austria]:	1
From country 4 [France]:	1
From country 5 [Netherlands]:	1
From country 6 [Germany]:	1
From country 7 [Spain]:	1
From country 8 [Czech Republic]:	1
From country 9 [Albania]:	1
From country 10 [Moldova]:	1

From country 11 [Kosovo]:	1		
Total number of participants:	27	From total number of countries:	11

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

From 12–14 July 2026, the event NECE Lab: Working with Polarised Groups in Civic Education took place in Warsaw. It was organised as a three-day educational laboratory combining expert lectures, workshops, practical exercises, facilitated discussions, and group project work.

The programme was designed to enable participants to gain both theoretical knowledge and practical skills in organising and facilitating civic dialogue processes. The aim of the event was to strengthen the capacities of civil society organisations and civic educators in designing, implementing, and developing civic dialogue processes as a tool for addressing social polarisation. Participants explored the mechanisms behind polarisation, learned dialogue facilitation methods, worked on strategies for recruiting and communicating with dialogue participants, and gained knowledge about organising dialogue events, evaluating their outcomes, and increasing their long-term social impact. An important element of the programme was the practical experience of participating in a civic dialogue process, analysing real-life challenges related to its organisation, and developing their own concepts for dialogue initiatives. On the final day, participants created action plans that could be implemented within their organisations and local communities, receiving feedback from experts and fellow participants.

The event brought together 27 participants representing 11 countries, creating a space for international exchange of experiences, sharing good practices, and building cooperation among organisations working in the fields of civic education and dialogue.

The first day of the NECE Lab focused on building a shared understanding of social polarisation and exploring civic dialogue as a possible response to growing divisions in society.

The first session, *Opening of the event and framing of objectives, agenda, and working*, set expectations, established a safe learning environment, and introduced civic dialogue as both a method and a shared practice throughout the Lab.

The next one, *Are we really so divided? Lecture on polarisation with a discussion*, participants explored the phenomenon of polarisation from a research-based perspective. They were introduced to key concepts, different forms of polarisation, and current data on polarisation trends in Poland and Europe. The discussion focused on how polarisation affects civic dialogue practices and what role dialogue can play in reducing affective polarisation by fostering mutual understanding. The session concluded with a moderated discussion, during which participants reflected on their own experiences with polarisation.

During the third one, *Group integration and entry into dialogue practice*, an interactive exercise on personal similarities and differences inspired by NCF events was conducted, followed by a discussion on what dialogue can achieve, where its limits lie, and what purposes it can and cannot serve. The format of NCF online and on-site dialogues was briefly introduced and discussed.

The final session, *Participants' practice exchange*, focused on mutual conversations, getting to know each other, and exchanging experiences among participants.

The aim of the second day was to explore the practical aspects of designing and delivering civic dialogues, focusing on the key steps involved in organising a dialogue process from A to Z.

During the first session, *Workshop on spotting dialogue topics*, techniques for identifying divisive issues in a given country, time and place were presented. Participants identified lines of division and worked on formulating topics for dialogue. They mapped polarising issues in their respective countries and discussed the importance of framing dialogue topics.

During the second session, a dialogue facilitated by two experienced facilitators took place. The event participants took part in the dialogue. It was an opportunity to see how dialogues organised by our foundation are conducted and to experience the process in practice.

The third one was about *Recruitment and communication strategies*. During the session, practical guidance on building a diverse group of participants and designing effective outreach was provided. Participants explored how to define a target group, identify dividing lines around a topic, create engaging and non-ideological invitations, design a simple registration process, and plan recruitment

campaigns using social media, partners, and local networks. The session also covered follow-up strategies to reduce no-shows and build a long-term audience.

Dialogue production and delivery was the topic of the next session. The participants were exploring both online and on-site dialogue formats. They were working on key aspects of each modality, including online formats: platform choices, livestreaming, technical roles, moderation tools, managing hybrid environments, and preventing technical disruptions.

During the last session, *Social impact and evaluation*, the question of whether dialogues create change was explored. Participants discussed evaluation tools, feedback loops, documenting insights, and communicating outcomes to secondary audiences beyond immediate participants. The session focused on turning dialogue into knowledge and amplifying impact through dissemination.

Day 3 focused on designing participants' own dialogue initiatives. Participants translated their learning into concrete plans and strengthened their practical facilitation skills.

During the first session, *Introduction to facilitation tools*, facilitation tools and techniques used in dialogue were presented, including examples from recorded dialogues organised by NCF. Participants worked in groups to identify practical interventions for challenging moments, such as personal attacks or escalating tensions.

During the second session, *Designing a dialogue initiative: group work with mentors*, participants worked in smaller groups to develop their own dialogue projects. They focused on formulating the topic and title, defining the recruitment strategy, choosing the dialogue format, and identifying the intended impact. The session provided space to apply the knowledge and inspiration gained during the lab with support from NCF mentors.

During the third session, *Presentation and feedback session*, participants presented their dialogue project ideas and received feedback from peers and experts. The discussion focused on refining the ideas and strengthening their readiness for implementation.

During the closing session, *Reflection and closing: What comes after the dialogue?*, participants reflected on their learning outcomes, discussed next steps, and explored how to integrate their experiences into future NECE Lab activities.

For the purposes of the event, **a dedicated workbook was prepared**, serving as the main working tool for participants during workshops and project sessions. It included exercises, reflection materials, and templates supporting the development of participants' own dialogue initiatives. The workbook is available at the link: [NECE Lab in Warsaw workbook .pdf](#)

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