

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	[3] - [Sofiyska Platforma]
PIC number:	[931767160]
Project name and acronym:	[COMPASS Europe: Civic Education and Dialogue for Europe's Future] — [COMPASS Europe]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	[8]
Event name:	[NECE & COMPASS Lab: Technology and politics: The civic gap]
Type:	[awareness-raising]
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	[Romania], [Bucharest]
Date(s):	[22.04.2026 – 24.04.2026]
Website(s) (if any):	https://nece.eu/technology-politics-and-practice/
Participants	
Female:	19
Male:	8
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Portugal]:	1
From country 2 [Romania]:	11
From country 3 [Hungary]:	1
From country 4 [Italy]:	2
From country 5 [Spain]:	1
From country 6 [Bulgaria]:	5
From country 7 [Albania]:	2
From country 8 [Belgium]:	1
From country 9 [Croatia]:	1
From country 10 [Slovenia]:	1

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

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The NECE & COMPASS Lab “Technology and Politics: The Civic Gap” brought together civic educators, civil society practitioners, researchers, journalists, and policy experts to examine the impact of digital technologies on civic participation, democratic processes, and public trust. Using the case of the 2025 Romanian presidential elections as a starting point, participants explored challenges related to digital platforms, disinformation, artificial intelligence, platform governance, and institutional responses. The event combined expert presentations, facilitated dialogue, peer learning, and collaborative workshops, enabling participants to exchange experiences, analyse current civic education practices, and develop small-scale pilot initiatives aimed at strengthening civic resilience, media literacy, and democratic engagement in increasingly complex information environments.

DAY 1

The first day of the NECE Lab focused on understanding how technological developments are reshaping democratic processes and civic practice. Following the opening session led by Louisa Slavkova, Kameliya Tomova, and Mila Moshelova, participants were welcomed by the local hosts, Alex Agatinei from How to Web and Flavia Gheorghe from AmpliFY ONG, who introduced the Romanian context and the organisations supporting the event.

The discussions then turned to the broader relationship between technology, politics, and democracy. In a panel moderated by Louisa Slavkova, political analyst Oana Popescu-Zamfir and Anna Vindics, Rethink.CEE Fellow, explored how digital infrastructures, algorithmic systems, and artificial intelligence are transforming the information environment. Participants examined how online platforms can be exploited for manipulation and influence operations, as well as the opportunities and limitations of European regulatory mechanisms such as the Digital Services Act. The conversation highlighted that democratic vulnerability today is shaped not only by the spread of inaccurate information but also by the growing difficulty of understanding how information is produced, amplified, and consumed.

The Romanian case served as a practical lens through which these broader developments could be examined. During a panel moderated by Mila Moshelova, Anna Mocanu from Funky Citizens and investigative journalist Attila Biro from CONTEXT shared insights into the events surrounding Romania’s 2025 presidential elections. Participants explored evidence of coordinated online activity, the role of platform infrastructures in amplifying political narratives, and the interaction between online influence campaigns and offline mobilisation. The discussion also highlighted the important role played by trusted local intermediaries, including community leaders, teachers, and clergy, in shaping public perceptions and political behaviour.

The day concluded with a guided reflection facilitated by Mila Moshelova, during which participants examined where trust breaks down in their own contexts and reflected on the implications for civic participation, democratic resilience, and civic education practice.

DAY 2

The second day shifted the focus from analysis to practice. Through two capacity-building sessions facilitated by Dr. Maja Nenadovic, participants explored dialogue as a structured method for making sense of complexity and addressing the challenges emerging at the intersection of technology and politics. Discussions focused on how dialogue can help individuals process conflicting information, reflect on competing narratives, and engage constructively across differences. Participants also examined practical approaches to organising community dialogues that raise awareness of technology-related challenges while strengthening democratic participation and trust.

Later in the day, participants showcased projects, methods, and collaborations from their own organisations, creating space for peer learning and the exchange of practical experiences. The programme then moved into a series of facilitated Open Space sessions led by Mila Moshelova, where participants mapped key challenges, questions, and tensions emerging from their work. Building on these discussions, they collaborated in small groups to develop pilot initiatives and test possible responses to the issues identified throughout the Lab.

DAY 3

The final day focused on translating insights into action. Participants presented the pilot initiatives

developed during the previous day and received feedback from their peers during a gallery walk session. The projects reflected many of the themes explored throughout the Lab, including information integrity, community engagement, dialogue-based approaches, and public understanding of technological systems.

In sessions facilitated by Mila Moshelova, participants discussed dissemination strategies and opportunities for future collaboration. A concluding synthesis brought together the main insights generated throughout the event, highlighting both the opportunities and limitations of civic education in responding to increasingly complex information environments. The Lab concluded with a collective reflection on next steps and the role that civic educators, civil society organisations, and democratic institutions can play in addressing the challenges identified during the three days of discussions and collaborative work.

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