

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	
Participant:	[101081520] - [Avatud Eesti Fond] ([OEF])
PIC number:	887710245
Project name and acronym:	COVIDemocracy in the Baltics _ COVIDemocracy

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP12-D12.1
Event name:	European Parliament debate in Estonia (National pre-elections event)
Type:	Discussion
In situ/online:	<i>In-situ</i>
Location:	Tallinn, Estonia
Date(s):	April 26, 2024
Website(s) (if any):	<p>ENG: https://oef.org.ee/en/our-work/open-society-forum/xxvii-open-society-forum</p> <p>EST https://oef.org.ee/teoksil/avatud-uhiskonna-foorumid/2024-xxvii-avatud-uehiskonna-foorum</p> <p>Photo gallery : https://oef.org.ee/paevakajaline/galerii/xxvii-avatud-uehiskonna-foorum-kodanikuuehiskonna-moju-valmisprotsessidele-ja-euroopa-parlamendi-valimisdebat</p>
Participants	
Female:	52
Male:	48
Non-binary:	-
From country 1 [Estonia]:	72
From country 2 [Croatia]:	3
From country 3 [Poland]:	2
From country 4 [Denmark]:	1
From country 5 [Romania]:	1
From country 6 [Georgia]:	3

From country 7 [Austria]:	1		
From country 8 [Slovakia]:	1		
From country 9 [Ukraine]:	3		
From country 10 [Norway]:	1		
From country 11 [Turkey]:	1		
From country 12 [United Kingdom]:	1		
From country 13 [Ireland]:	1		
From country 14 [Netherlands]:	2		
From country 15 [Canada]:	1		
From country 16 [India]:	1		
From country 17 [Finland]:	1		
From country 18 [Germany]:	1		
From country 19 [Moldova]:	1		
From country 20 [USA]:	2		
Total number of participants:	100	From total number of countries:	20

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The XXVII Open Society Forum “Civil society’s impact on electoral processes and 2024 European Parliament elections debate” took place on April 26, 2024 in Tallinn, Nordic Hotel Forum. The European Parliament candidates debate took place as the second part of the Forum, titled “**Estonia’s 20 years in the European Union: is this the Europe we wanted?**”.

The debate took place in Estonian with simultaneous translation into English.

Debate in English (starting from 2:01 :18): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIEYcoD-znY&t=2163s&ab_channel=AvatudEestiFond

Debate in Estonian (starting from 2:01 :23)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxJ0DVqBoq0&t=1s&ab_channel=AvatudEestiFond

Description of the topic and event

The debate titled “Estonia 20 years in the EU: is this the Europe we wanted?” was one of first 2024 European Parliament elections debate in Estonia.

The European Parliament elections will take place on June 6-9. This time they hold special significance for Estonia, as exactly 20 years ago, Estonia, along with several other European countries, became a full-fledged member of the European Union. However, the post-accession optimism has somewhat diminished: democracy has been declining both in Europe and worldwide, civic space is narrowing, the war in Ukraine shows no signs of ending, there is a growing sense of

polarization, and inflation and climate change affect everyone.

Yet, as one of the founders of the European community, Jean Monnet, observed, Europe is built in crises and it will be composed of the solutions to those crises. To emerge from crises, it is crucial to have dialogue and cooperation between decision-makers and citizens. How can we more effectively involve people in decision-making processes and encourage them to engage in European issues? How can we collectively manage crises and strengthen democracy? What have we learned as EU members over the past 20 years?

The debate focused on three main topics: future of freedom of speech in the EU, the future of democracy in the EU and the role of citizens in future EU.

Participants of the debate were the following: **Marina Kaljurand** (Social Democratic Party), **Erki Savisaar** (Estonian Centre Party), **Yoko Alender** (Estonian Reform Party), **Arvo Aller** (Estonian Conservative People's Party), **Hendrik Johannes Terras** (Estonia 200) and **Jüri Ratas** (Isamaa). The debate was moderated by **Margo Loor**, trainer and moderator at Speaksmart. The audience was encouraged to ask questions before and during the event through Slido.

The event brought together around 100 participants from various walks of life (civic activists, youth, journalists, embassies) and around 190 unique live stream views.

Media coverage

The event was live streamed on Estonian Public Broadcasting English page and on Delfi, the biggest media portal in Estonia:

Delfi: <https://www.delfi.ee/artikkel/120288591/otsepilt-foorum-kodanikuühiskonna-mojust-valimisprotsessidele-ja-euroopa-parlamendi-valimisdebat>

ERR: <https://news.err.ee/1609322964/watch-live-open-society-forum-discusses-ep-elections-and-civil-society>

Assessment of the Estonian Debating Society expert to the debate:

<https://epl.delfi.ee/artikkel/120288739/vaitlusekspert-juri-ratas-ja-noor-terras-osutusid-eurodebatil-koduvaljaku-eelisega-kaljurannast-ootamatult-veenvamaks>

Mention on European Commission Estonia Rep. page:

https://estonia.representation.ec.europa.eu/uudised/el-sel-nadalal-laste-huvide-tugevam-kaitse-2024-04-22_et?prefLang=el

Also a press release of the event was issued: <https://oef.org.ee/paevakajaline/artikkel/pressiteade-valimistele-keskenduval-xxvii-avatud-uehiskonna-foorumil-toimub-euroopa-parlamendi-valimisdebatting-arutletakse-kuidas-kodanikuuehiskond-saab-valimisi-mojutada>

EU funding mention

EU funding was mentioned at the opening event by OEF Executive Director, Mall Hellam. EU logo and/or statement was mentioned in every social media post of the event, on the event's visuals, registration form and sheets, and on the banner on the stage throughout the event.

HISTORY OF CHANGES

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