

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

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 Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

PROJECT	
Participant:	Confederation of European Senior Expert Services – CESES
PIC number:	887290041
Project name and acronym:	AGES–Active Governance and Engagement of Seniors

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	1
Event name:	National Consultations
Type:	Consultation
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	12 sessions in Barcelona (ES), 21 Madrid (ES), 1 Alava (ES), 1 Castellon (ES), 4 Valencia (ES), 2 Turin (IT), 3 Paris (FR), 1 Antibes (FR), 1 Amiens (FR), 1 Versailles (FR), 1 Clermont-Ferrand (FR), 1 Saint-Paul, La Réunion (FR), 1 Bordeaux (FR), 1 Saint-Maur (FR), 1 Magescq (Landes) (FR), 1 Magescq (Landes) (FR), 1 Bouc-Bel-Air (FR), 1 Montpellier (FR), 2 Limassol (CY), 2 Nicosia (CY), 1 Brussels (BE)
Date(s):	SPAIN: 25/02/2026, 03/03/2026, 27/02/2026, 06/03/2026, 15/03/2026, 13/03/2026, 10/03/2026, 13/03/2026, 16/04/2026, 16/04/2026, 22/04/2026, 23/04/2026, 24/04/2026, 27/04/2026, 26/03/2026, 15/04/2026, 22/04/2026, 28/04/2026, 14/04/2026, 30/04/2026, 08/05/2026, 11/05/2026, 12/05/2026, 06/05/2026, 13/05/2026, 14/05/2026, 19/05/2026, 19/05/2026, 06/04/2026, 15/05/2026, 19/05/2026, 20/05/2026, 27/05/2026, 29/05/2026, 26/05/2026, 29/05/2026, 29/05/2026, 13/05/2026, 01/06/2025, 29/06/2026 ITALY: 20/03/2026 and 26/03/2026 FRANCE: 21/05/2026, 02/06/2026, 09/06/2026, 15/06/2026, 16/06/2026, 09/06/2026, 16/06/2026, 15/06/2026, 18/06/2026, 22/06/2026, 25/06/2026, 2 Sessions on 29/06/2026 CYPRUS: 04/06/2026, 22/06/2026, 23/06/2026, 26/06/2026 BELGIUM: 29/06/2026
Website(s) (if any):	One page dedicated to AGES project has been dedicated on each partner's website: CESES: https://www.ceses.eu/ages VolTo: https://volontariatotorino.it/progetti-volto/ages-active-governance-and-engagement-for-seniors/

SECOT: https://www.secot.org/conocenos/actividad-internacional-de-secot/ages/ CTAO: https://www.ctaobservatory.org/en/ages ECTI: https://ecti.org/nos-services-en-france/notre-mission-europeenne-ages/			
Participants			
Female:	125		
Male:	162		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Spain]:	47		
From country 2 [Cyprus]:	50		
From country 3 [Italy]:	83		
From country 4 [France]:	99		
From country 5 [Belgium]:	8		
Total number of participants:	287	From total number of countries:	5
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
The AGES – Active Governance and Engagement of Seniors project aims to strengthen the civic engagement and democratic participation of older citizens by promoting dialogue between senior citizens, civil society organisations and public authorities. Within this framework, the National Consultations (WP1) constituted the first activity of the project, establishing a solid evidence base for its subsequent phases. A total of 60 consultation sessions were organised across the 5 consortium countries: Italy, Spain, Cyprus, France and Belgium, involving 376 participants overall. These consultations gathered the perspectives of three key stakeholder groups: 224 senior citizens, 105 civil society organisation (CSO) representatives and 46 policymakers, with the aim of exploring the current state of seniors' civic and democratic participation. Through these consultations, partners identified the main barriers, enabling factors, existing good practices and emerging needs within their respective national contexts. While ECTI, CTAO, SECOT and Vol.To were responsible for identifying and engaging participants through their community networks and direct outreach, CESES, as project coordinator, developed a common consultation structure and methodological guidance to ensure a consistent approach across all countries (see Annex 2) and additionally CESES also implemented one more consultation in Belgium (even if it wasn't foreseen in the proposal). Once participants had been recruited and the sessions organised, each national partner implemented the consultations following the common methodology (see selected photographs and participants' signature lists in Annex 1). During the sessions, participants' contributions were collected and subsequently analysed according to common thematic categories, including digital barriers, ageism and gender-related challenges, allowing partners to identify recurring patterns, shared concerns and examples of good practice. The evidence collected through the consultations formed the basis of the 4 National Research Reports (Deliverable 1.1). In addition to presenting the consultation findings, the 4 national partners carried out a brief desk-based analysis of its national context, covering legal definitions and			

terminology, relevant policy frameworks and existing initiatives promoting the active participation of older citizens.

Following a common template developed by CESES, the 4 National Research Reports will provide the national evidence base for the project's **State of the Art Report**, which will also integrate the findings of the Pan-European Consultations (WP2). Together, these reports will inform the Civil Dialogue activities and support the development of both national and European policy recommendations.

While a common methodology ensured comparability across countries, partners were encouraged to adapt the implementation of the consultations to their national contexts, organisational capacities and existing stakeholder networks.

SECOT (Spain) opted for a more individualised approach, organising a larger number of smaller consultation sessions in order to facilitate more personalised discussions and to better tailor the dialogue to each stakeholder group (senior citizens, CSO representatives or policymakers). As a result, SECOT organised **39 consultation sessions**, involving a total of **116 participants (70 senior citizens, 28 CSO representatives and 18 policymakers)** 47 in situ and 69 online.

ECTI (France) also organised several consultation sessions across different regions of France through its national network and regional delegations. Participants were recruited from a wide geographical area, including **La Réunion**, resulting in **10 consultation sessions in person and 3 hybrid sessions** with **119 participants (77 senior citizens, 37 CSO representatives and 5 policymakers)**, 20 of those being present through a videocall.

Vol.To (Italy) organised two consultation sessions. The first took place at the organisation's headquarters and brought together senior citizens and CSO representatives. The second was hosted by the **Turin City Council** and focused mainly on policymakers through a hearing attended by members of the **Rights and Equal Opportunities Committee** and the **Health and Social Services Committee**. Together, these two in person sessions involved **83 participants (36 senior citizens, 26 CSO representatives and 20 policymakers)**.

Finally, **CTAO (Cyprus)** organised **4 consultation sessions**, involving **50 participants (41 senior citizens, 6 CSO representatives and 3 policymakers)**. The face-to-face consultations also benefited from the participation of two Members of the European Parliament, Costas Mavrides and Giorgos Georgiou, who contributed their perspectives to the discussions.

In addition to the previous sessions planned as part of the AGES project, **CESES** also held 1 session in Brussels, Belgium, with **8 CSO representatives** to gather perspectives from Belgium as the 5th country.

With regard to the gender perspective, all partners made specific efforts to encourage the participation of women and to achieve a balanced gender representation throughout the consultations. Although complete gender balance was not achieved, gender-related barriers to the civic and democratic participation of older people emerged as one of the key themes discussed across all consultation sessions. This confirmed the need to strengthen efforts in this area during the next phases of the project.

In line with the objectives set out in the project proposal, the consortium also ensured the participation of **6 individuals and/or civil society organisations with specific expertise in gender equality and women's empowerment**, whose contributions enriched the discussions and supported a more inclusive analysis of the issues addressed.

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

Annex 1 - Pictures and Signature Lists

PICTURES

CTAO - National Consultations - Cyprus



SECOT- National Consultations - Spain



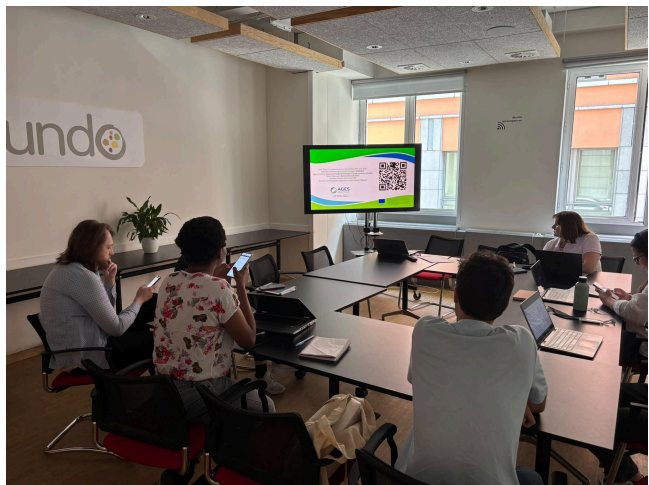
VolTo - National Consultations - Italy



ECTI - National Consultations - France



CESES - National Consultation - Belgium



ANNEX 2

AGES Project – Structure for National Consultations (WP1)

Purpose of this document

This structure defines the common agenda and methodological logic for the national consultations under WP1. These consultations are conceived as:

- The foundational diagnostic phase of the project
- The evidence base for:
 - National Research Report (WP1)
 - Civil Dialogue Focus Groups (WP3)
 - National & EU Policy Papers

They are not workshops, but structured participatory consultations aimed at mapping:

- Barriers
- Enablers
- Needs
- Good practices
- Perceptions

IMPORTANT: Collect participants' input in writing.

It is recommended that one person take minutes of the session or use techniques that record participants' input in writing in order to compile the subsequent national report.

1. Opening & Framing

Objective: Create trust, clarity, and shared purpose

Elements:

- Welcome & signature list
- Presentation of AGES project
- Purpose of the consultation
- Explanation of participants' role
- Ground rules:
 - Respect
 - Equal voice
 - Safe space
 - No hierarchy of roles

2. Democratic Participation & Active Citizenship – Shared Understanding

Objective: Build a common conceptual base

Guiding prompts:

- What does "active citizenship" mean to you as a senior/CSO representative/Policy maker?
- What does "participation in democratic life" look like in daily life?
- Where do you feel seniors' participation actually happens?

3. Mapping Barriers

Objective: Identify obstacles to participation

- What prevents seniors from participating?
- What discourages engagement?
- What makes participation difficult?
- Who is most excluded?

Main barriers that need to be discussed:

A. Structural Barriers

Some ideas:

- Access to institutions
- Representation
- Policy access
- Administrative complexity

B. Digital Barriers

Some ideas:

- Digital literacy
- Access to technology
- Digital-only services
- Digital exclusion

C. Cultural & Social Barriers

Some ideas:

- Ageism
- Stereotypes
- Social invisibility
- Intergenerational gaps

D. Gender-Specific Barriers

Some ideas:

- Participation of senior women
- Gender roles
- Care responsibilities
- Safety, confidence, voice

4. Mapping Enablers & Good Practices

Objective: Identify what works

Guiding questions:

- What helps seniors participate?
- What initiatives already work?
- What makes people feel motivated to engage?
- What support structures or initiatives exist that, in your opinion, are already working?

Levels:

- Individual
- Community
- CSO
- Institutional

5. Closure & Transition Logic

Objective: EU Survey and Link to next phases

Elements:

- [EU Survey compilation](#)
- Explanation/Invitation of next project steps:
 - Pan-European consultation (online)
 - Focus groups - Civic dialogue
 - Raise Awareness Webinars
 - National Events
- Thanking participants