

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	United under the perspective of Peace, Equality and Equity – PeaceUp
Participant:	PYLON ONE
PIC number:	888275464

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number :	1		
Event name:	PeaceUp Celebration of European Equality, Equity, and Peace in a two days EquiGala		
Type:	Open Conference		
In situ/online:	In situ		
Location:	Thessaloniki – Skydra		
Date(s):	20-22 May		
Website(s) (if any):	https://pylon-one.gr/peaceup/		
Participants			
Female:	176		
Male:	96		
Non-binary:	3		
From country 1 [Greece]:	67		
From country 2 [Bulgaria]:	164		
From country 3 [Spain]:	4		
From country 4 [Slovenia]:	23		
From country 5 [Italy]:	17		
Total number of participants:	275	From total number of countries:	5
Description			
Provide a short description of the event and its activities.			
From May 20 to 22, 2025, PYLON ONE with the support of the Municipality of Skydra hosted the international event "EquiGala" as part of the European project <i>PeaceUp</i> , funded under the CERV Programme. The event took place across the cities of Thessaloniki and Skydra, bringing together representatives of local governments, NGOs, civil society, and citizens from five different EU countries			

to explore how principles of equality, equity, and peace can be meaningfully translated into local and transnational action.

The project consortium included partners from Greece, Bulgaria, Spain, Slovenia, and Italy. Municipal authorities involved were the Municipality of Skydra (Greece), Municipality of Strumyani (Bulgaria), Ayuntamiento de Dolores (Spain), Municipality of Novo Mesto (Slovenia), and Municipality of Penne (Italy). These institutions were supported by non-governmental organizations, including the lead coordinator, PYLON ONE (Greece), and the Slovenian NGO ZAVOD BOTER, who played a key role in shaping the program and facilitating exchanges.

The event opened in Thessaloniki with welcoming remarks delivered by Mr. Konstantinos Symeonidis, President of PYLON ONE, who emphasized the power of cooperation among European towns in promoting peace and inclusion. The introductory session provided context for the PeaceUp project, outlining its objectives and the theoretical frameworks that inform its work—such as feminist theory, community empowerment, and peacebuilding through dialogue.

Representatives from each partner municipality presented their own initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality, civic participation, and intergroup solidarity. These case studies reflected a wide variety of local realities while pointing to shared challenges and promising solutions. Their contributions laid the foundation for further conversations throughout the event.

The first day also featured expert-led sessions on topics central to the PeaceUp mission. A political analyst explored current gender dynamics across Europe and the role of public policy in advancing equality. A civic education advisor followed with a presentation on equitable access to education and professional opportunities. Later, a specialist in peace-oriented governance addressed the significance of inclusivity in public decision-making. Each presentation encouraged lively discussion and highlighted the importance of applying inclusive principles in local policy development.

Additional focus was given to the intersection of democratic engagement and gender justice within the evolving European landscape. A structured workshop later in the day provided attendees with the opportunity to design locally adaptable strategies for implementing inclusive, community-based policy initiatives. The session was practical in nature and encouraged collaborative problem-solving. The day concluded with a communal dinner, allowing for informal networking and cultural exchange among the diverse participants.

The second day took place in Skydra, where the group visited local administrative offices and observed municipal services in action. The study visit offered an up-close view of how public institutions in Skydra are working to build more resilient and equitable communities. A panel discussion followed, focusing on the evolving forms of feminist activism, from environmental justice movements to digital platforms, highlighting the importance of intersectionality in civic advocacy.

Later sessions featured local social initiatives that addressed themes of solidarity, social justice, and post-crisis civic engagement. These presentations demonstrated how municipal actors and community groups can work together to rebuild trust, foster inclusion, and support vulnerable populations through targeted programs and policies.

The event concluded with a closing session in which participants reflected on the knowledge shared, acknowledged the collaborative achievements of the consortium, and reaffirmed their collective commitment to the project's values. Recognition was given to each delegation for their contributions, and the session concluded with a hopeful message for the continuation of intermunicipal cooperation.

Throughout and following the event, highlights were shared through social media, newsletters, websites, and traditional media to ensure the outcomes reached a wider audience. Photos, video clips, and summaries were made publicly available to encourage other towns across Europe to draw inspiration from the PeaceUp experience.

EquiGala can be seen as an example of how town twinning can go beyond ceremonial ties and become a genuine platform for critical dialogue, community learning, and strategic cooperation. The participants left with concrete tools, renewed motivation, and strengthened cross-border connections, all essential to the pursuit of a more just, inclusive, and peaceful Europe.

The Agenda of EquiGala Event is presented below:

20–22 May 2025

Thessaloniki & Skydra, Greece

15:00 – 15:30

Arrival and Registration of Participants

Participants gather at the venue and register, setting the stage for the event's opening.

15:30 – 15:45

Welcome Address & Introductory Remarks

Mr. Konstantinos Symeonidis, President of PYLON ONE, opens the event and welcomes guests.

15:45 – 16:00

Presentation of Agenda & Introduction to the PeaceUp Objectives

Overview of the project's core themes: peace, equality, and equity.

16:00 – 16:30

Presentation of Participating Municipalities

Representatives from the partner municipalities share reflections on local efforts toward equity, inclusion, and peaceful coexistence:

- Municipality of Skydra, Greece
- Municipality of Strumyani, Bulgaria
- Ayuntamiento de Dolores, Spain
- Municipality of Novo Mesto, Slovenia
- Municipality of Penne, Italy

20:00

Welcome Dinner & Networking

Participants gather for an informal dinner to foster intercultural exchange and relationship building.

Day 2 – 21 May 2025 | Thessaloniki

11:00

Participants' Welcome and Registration for Day 2

Attendees reconvene and register for the second day of sessions.

13:30 – 14:30

Lunch Break

14:30 – 15:30

Round Table – Part I

Examples of municipal initiatives advancing gender equity, LGBTQ+ inclusion, and anti-discrimination.

15:30 – 16:30

Round Table – Part II

Discussion on how EU mechanisms can better support and replicate local equity models.

16:30 – 17:30

Reflections and Action Planning

Presentation and feedback on ideas and strategies developed during roundtable sessions.

17:30 – 18:00

Coffee Break

18:00 – 18:30

Keynote Speech: Peacebuilding through Inclusive Decision-Making

Delivered by an expert in European peace-based leadership and governance.

18:30 – 19:00

Keynote Speech: Democracy, Populism & Gender Justice in the European Regional Ecosystem

Presented by a specialist in EU regional development and gender policy.

19:00 – 19:30

Workshop Lab: Designing Inclusive Local Policies

Interactive session focused on practical tools for municipal-level inclusion strategies.

20:00

Cultural Dinner

An evening event celebrating diversity and informal cultural exchange among participants.

Day 3 – 22 May 2025 | Skydra

10:00 – 12:00

Study Visit

Participants visit the Municipality of Skydra and Central Macedonia regional departments to observe local governance and equity-oriented initiatives in action.

12:00 – 12:30

Debatable Forum

A reflective session on the evolution of feminist movements, from eco-feminism to digital activism.

12:30 – 13:00

Interactive Exchange

Showcasing local policies that promote solidarity, inclusion, and civic resilience.

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch Break

13:00 – 14:00

Closing Ceremony

Final reflections, acknowledgments, and official conclusion of the EquiGala event.

Dissemination and Publication's Links on the organizations/municipalities' websites:

<https://pylon-one.gr/peaceup/>

Dissemination and Publication's Links on Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=674769838932610&set=pcb.674770165599244>

https://www.instagram.com/p/DMPx4ItolRB/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=N2cxMXp1dXRzc3dl

HISTORY OF CHANGES

VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	02.06.2025	Initial version (new MFF).