

HECSOs NEWSLETTER

Higher Education institutions and Civil Society
Organisations together for community engagement



A look back at the Nicosia Meeting

In March 2023, the HECSOs project reached a significant phase in its journey with a meeting in Nicosia, Cyprus. Facilitated by SYNTHESIS, this meeting served as an instrumental waypoint in the overarching objective of fostering resilient communities through active community engagement. One of the main discussions was about the community engagement multicase analysis report. This report gives a detailed overview of the hard work the project has done in key areas, including EU Citizenship, Migrant Integration, Gender Empowerment, and Management of Common Resources. This report has been crucial in showing how much progress the project has made and helping decide the next steps. All the consortium partners took part in planning and brainstorming sessions, showing just how dedicated they are to the goals of the HECSOs project.



"Home for Cooperation"

Situated in the buffer zone of Nicosia, the "Home for Cooperation" project stands as an emblem of intercultural dialogue and community bridging. The HECSOs team had the opportunity to visit this initiative during its meeting in Nicosia. This initiative, located in the symbolic heart of a divided city, has built an inspiring space for cooperation, mutual understanding, and peacebuilding through its diverse cultural, educational, and social activities. The principles driving

"Home for Cooperation" closely align with those of the HECSOs project, which focuses on enhancing community engagement and fostering cooperation between institutions and CSOs. The tangible successes and positive community impacts showcased by "Home for Cooperation" provide a powerful model of what community-building efforts can achieve. The experiences and insights gathered from this visit have undoubtedly enriched the perspectives within the HECSOs project.

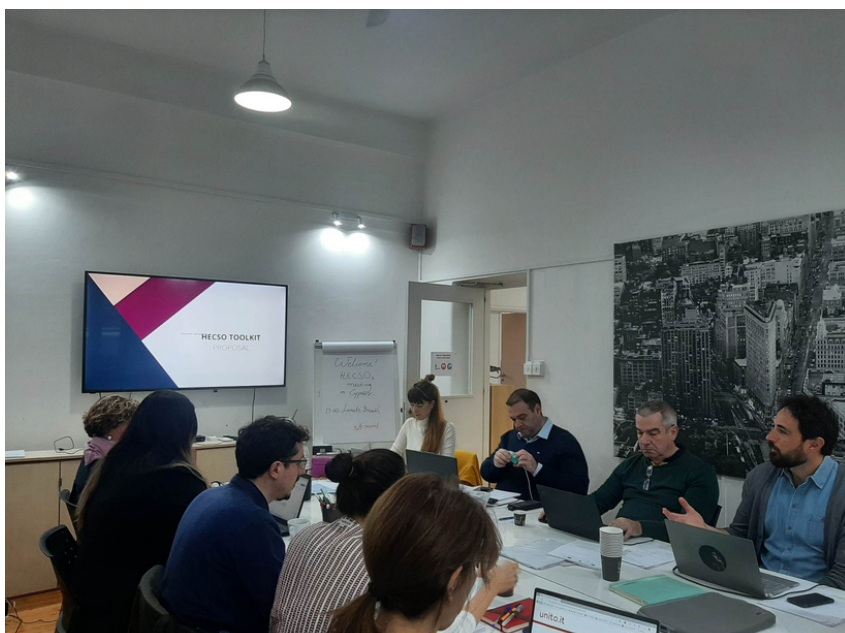


Ongoing activities

As part of the HECSOs project's ongoing research, two key activities are currently being undertaken. First, a market analysis of existing courses on the topic of Community Engagement is in progress. This analysis aims to gain insights into the types of courses currently available, particularly those offered in the respective countries of the HECSOs project or other known programmes. The findings will be instrumental in effectively structuring the project's offerings. Second, the development of a Competence Framework is underway, designed to identify the skills and competencies needed by professionals involved in community engagement projects. To facilitate these endeavours, a comprehensive table has been prepared, encompassing several dimensions deemed necessary for a thorough understanding of the current market and the required professional competencies.

Looking ahead

As the HECSOs project continues its journey, the spotlight now turns towards the upcoming meeting in Bucharest in September 2023. The central focus of this assembly will be Project Result 2: the creation of innovative training courses centred around community engagement, designed to benefit both students and professionals. A notable item on the agenda is the unveiling of the newly crafted Competence Framework.



This instrumental guide will serve as the blueprint for developing the course content, tailoring teaching methods, and devising assessment tools. With the promise of marking a significant milestone in the project's timeline, the Bucharest meeting is set to steer the project towards the fulfilment of the HECSOs objectives. Stay tuned for further updates on this upcoming event!

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