

## 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:	OASI DEI LECCI APS
PIC number:	880938675
Project name and acronym:	[Ec(h)o-cultures] — [ECHO CULT]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	10
Event name:	EC(h)O -DEBATES
Type:	conference
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	Castelgomberto (VICENZA) - ITALY
Date(s):	09/2024 - 11/2025
Website(s) (if any):	www.oasideilecci.it/
Participants	
Female:	128
Male:	77
Non-binary:	
From country 1 ITALY :	197
From country 2 ARGENTINA :	1
From country 3 CINA :	2
From country 4 CROAZIA :	1
From country 5 PERU' :	1
From country 6 OLANDA:	1
From country 7 USA:	1
From country 8 SVIZZERA:	1
Total number of participants :	205
From total number of countries:	8

**Description**

*Provide a short description of the event and its activities.*

WP10 was designed to stimulate public dialogue, raise awareness on environmental challenges, and strengthen the connection between citizens and local authorities on themes linked to sustainability. The EC(h)O-Debates consisted of a structured cycle of ten public conferences and evening debates, delivered across different locations in the Province of Vicenza: Castelfomberto, Oasi dei Lecci, Altavilla and Vicenza. These venues were selected to maximise accessibility and to engage citizens from various municipalities and backgrounds.

A total of 205 participants, mainly adults and young adults from Italy, took part in the debates and conferences, with some attendees coming from other countries. This strong participation reflects the growing local interest in environmental topics and the desire for open, constructive dialogue with experts, activists and institutional representatives. The debates successfully gathered citizens, professionals, cultural practitioners, scientists, educators and local authorities in a shared space for reflection, discussion and civic engagement.

The debates addressed a wide range of sustainability-related themes—including biodiversity loss, eco-feminism, energy transition, climate justice, space and ecology, deforestation, the role of pollinators, and the emotional and cultural dimensions of ecological awareness. The innovative formats adopted throughout the cycle—ranging from conferences with live music, travelling readings, theatrical methodologies such as Forum Theatre and Playback Theatre, storytelling of forests and ecosystems, to participatory discussions—allowed participants to approach environmental issues not only from a scientific and policy perspective but also through emotional, artistic, cultural and experiential lenses. This multidisciplinary approach contributed to creating a deeper and more holistic understanding of the ecological crisis and the actions needed at both individual and collective levels.

The activities also served as an important platform to bring citizens together, fostering dialogue around shared environmental priorities, territorial challenges and policy responses. By involving researchers, activists, artists, urban planners, beekeepers and environmental educators, the work package offered a diverse and rich set of viewpoints that broadened participants' knowledge and stimulated active citizenship.

The activities succeeded in reaching and engaging a wide audience, reinforcing the project's mission of empowering communities to reflect on ecological issues and to cultivate a culture of participation, sustainability and responsibility towards the environment.

**CONFERENCE: I AM AMAZONIA**

Participants were welcomed in the Multipurpose Hall, where the evening was introduced and the Ec(h)o-cultures project was presented. The guest speaker then took the floor to begin recounting his 2023 bicycle trip to the Amazon, which aimed to raise global awareness about the destruction of nature and the systematic violation of human rights.

Participants listened to the account of the expedition and were able to see for themselves, through videos and photos, the situation in the Amazon rainforest. Indiscriminate cutting and burning of vegetation, mainly to make way for feed crops for intensive livestock farming, are devastating the planet's largest green lung and undermining the living conditions of its inhabitants.

In conclusion, participants were able to ask questions and express their curiosity, and together they reflected on the fact that, despite the geographical distance, the problem of the Amazon also affects us closely. The need to act as individuals and as a community is fundamental if we do not want to move ever closer to the actual extinction of the species.

**CONFERENCE: CLIMATE WITH CRIME**

The evening began with a presentation of the Ec(h)o-cultures project and the guests. This was followed by a conference-show in which moments of reflection on the theme of climate change, led by the biologist guest, alternated with musical interludes sung and played live by musicians.

The conference-show took the form of an investigation to be solved in order to reveal the culprit of climate change, and the audience was actively involved in expressing their opinions. Topics such as denialism, activism, ecological lifestyles, and global and European policies to address the environmental crisis were addressed. Participants were encouraged to reflect on the importance of taking action both in terms of political pressure and in adopting increasingly planet-friendly individual

behaviours (public transport and green energy, plant-based diets, reduction of waste and consumption, etc.).

The musical contribution, consisting of songs by singer-songwriters and others, all related to environmental issues, helped to create a climate of emotional sharing and hope about the possibility of reversing the fate of our planet.

### **CONFERENCE: US AND THE COSMOS**

The evening began with a presentation of the Ec(h)o-cultures project and the guest trainer, an astronomer at the Asiago Astrophysical Observatory.

This was followed by an in-depth conference on the life cycle and characteristics of stars. The trainer focused on the links between stars and planet Earth and the human dimension. Topics such as clean energy and the need to reduce consumption in order to guarantee a future for our planet were addressed and discussed. The audience was able to interact with the trainer and ask questions about the topics covered.

We observed the passage of the International Space Station and some visible stars.

At the end of the conference, participants enjoyed a star-themed dinner of gnocchi with vegetarian and vegan sauces.

### **CONFERENCE: THE ENERGY REVOLUTION**

The evening began with a welcome and introduction to the European Ec(h)o Cultures call for proposals. This was followed by the presentation of the evening's guest, a European parliamentarian and ecologist, author of several books on the subject.

The evening was interactive, with the help of a moderator and the constant opportunity to involve the audience through questions and shared reflections.

The meeting was an opportunity to delve into the complexity of European energy policies and to reflect on the profound interconnections with the economic and political choices that influence the planet.

The need for a radical ecological conversion was discussed, which should be supported by appropriate existing technologies, courageous political choices and grassroots pressure.

The evening ended with a convivial moment in which it was possible to further exchange ideas and points of view.

### **CONFERENCE: ECO-CONFLICTS**

The meeting opened with an introduction to the Ec(h)o Cultures initiative and its objectives.

The two days took the form of an active and participatory conference on environmental issues, also using methods from the Theatre of the Oppressed and other activation techniques.

Participants had the opportunity to share their knowledge on the subject and reflect on the oppressive dynamics of an economic system that damages the planet we live on, impacting our personal and social well-being.

The seminar was also an opportunity to explore and represent possible paths for change, as well as to test alternatives that are feasible for everyone with a view to greater sustainability and personal and collective responsibility.

### **CONFERENCE: THE MAN WHO PLANTED TREES**

The evening began with a presentation of the Ec(h)o Cultures project.

The audience was led outdoors for a travelling reading session, during which particularly significant and poetic writings on the theme of our relationship with nature and our individual responsibility to preserve it were read aloud. These writings are linked to the story that gave rise to the Oasi dei Lecci and the project of the association of the same name, serving as concrete testimony to commitment and sustainability.

At the last stop, a musical reading of Jean Giono's text "The Man Who Planted Trees" began. In the story, the ecological theme emerges through the silent and constant action of the protagonist, who transforms an arid land into a lush ecosystem through reforestation. The work shows how individual

commitment and respect for nature can regenerate the environment and restore harmony between man and the natural world. The professional actor was accompanied by a local singer-songwriter who wrote and performed several songs related to the original text.

The initiative was very engaging from an emotional and spiritual point of view and emphasised the importance of feeling at one with the environment around us.

#### **CONFERENCE: BEES AND BIODIVERSITY**

The meeting began with a presentation of the Ec(h)o Cultures project.

Thanks to the guidance of an expert beekeeper and teacher from the Asiago area (VI), participants had the opportunity to learn more about the world of bees.

During the meeting, the complex functioning of the hive and the fundamental role that this insect, together with other pollinators, plays in our ecosystems to preserve biodiversity was explored in depth.

We had the opportunity to learn more about the consequences that human activities have had on these species over the last few centuries, permanently modifying their habitats and altering the environmental balance to the point of endangering their survival.

There was also time to explore how important sustainable and respectful beekeeping can be in protecting bees.

At the end of the meeting, there was a honey tasting session and an opportunity to learn about the hive through a live viewing of a beehive, with participants able to see and touch these fascinating insects up close.

#### **CONFERENCE: THE FOREST TELLS ITS STORY, ECOSYSTEMS IN MUSIC AND WORDS**

The evening began with an introduction to the Ec(h)o Cultures project.

The audience was led outdoors on a four-stage journey representing a symbolic trip through four forests around the world. At each stage, participants listened to a story told from the perspective of the trees that inhabit certain territories.

Each story took shape first through the words of a forestry expert, writer and traveller, and then through the ethnic sounds of three musicians, who sought to recreate the atmosphere of those places through music, establishing an emotional connection with the audience.

The journey began by recounting the woods of our territory, then moved on to the forests of Japan, Tanzania and the Amazon, which share the same fragility and threat caused by climate change.

The conference ended with a moment of interaction and a call to action to support the fight to protect trees, on which our very existence on Earth depends.

The evening then concluded with a convivial dinner and another musical performance.

#### **CONFERENCE: ECOLOGY IN ACTION**

The evening began with a presentation of the Ec(h)o Cultures project and a reflection on the importance of continuing to talk about environmental issues in order to raise awareness and motivate people to take action.

The two hosts then presented the Forum Theatre methodology and led the group of participants through a brief participatory exercise. During this phase, participants were able to discuss the topic in pairs and then express their thoughts, desires, struggles and frustrations regarding the climate crisis to the larger group.

This was followed by the actual Forum Theatre performance, in which the actors staged two stories related to environmental issues, but set in everyday life and based on experiences common to all. After watching the scenes, the audience was actively involved in the search for possible changes and alternative solutions to those staged, with the aim of finding a solution to improve the situation.

This approach allowed for a broad and shared discussion of the issues raised, activating a collective mind and generating a strong sense of involvement among those present, seeking to overcome the sense of powerlessness that often accompanies us when faced with the complex situations we find ourselves in.

**CONFERENCE: SUI GENERIS - eco-feminism**

The evening began with a presentation of the Ec(h)o Cultures project.

The theme of the evening was introduced: gender dynamics and their connections with the ecological crisis, both phenomena derived from the same logic of patriarchal and capitalist domination.

The group of actors then provided the audience with some input on the theme, launching a number of thought-provoking ideas on the subject of stereotypes, gender inequality and power dynamics.

In the second part, participants were given the opportunity to share personal stories related to the theme that they found emotionally significant. The actual playback theatre performance then began: some members of the audience shared their stories with everyone, and the actors then improvised a scene that conveyed the emotional and symbolic significance of the story through body language, words and sound.

The evening was a very intense moment of sharing and resonance between people, opening up various points for reflection in an atmosphere of respect, dialogue and authentic listening.

**Pictures:**

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