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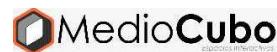
Valuing Opportunities for Inclusive Civic Engagement in Europe

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# Activity 1 Report: "EU Citizenship" Seminars in Spain

Partners:



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## **Content**

1	Preamble.....	3
2	Preparation and announcements .....	4
3	The Programme and the Experts.....	5
3.1	Documentation and presentations.....	5
4	First seminar .....	9
4.1	Photographic report first seminar .....	11
5	Second seminar .....	19
5.1	Photographic report second seminar .....	21
6	Evaluation .....	23
6.1	Pre-questionnaire .....	23
6.2	Post-questionnaire.....	25
7	Conclusions.....	28

# Report - "EU Citizenship" Seminars

## 1 Preamble

The first activity to raise awareness among citizens in general about the importance of the European institutions, the impact that these institutions have on daily life and to discuss the future of Europe was seen as an opportunity at a time when a certain Euroscepticism is growing in Europe. The aim was for seminar participants to gain a deeper understanding of the role and functioning of national and European institutions. As well as highlighting how the European institutions work and have a direct impact on the daily lives of all citizens of the European Union. It also addressed giving a sense of participation and responsibility in the decision-making process, encouraging active participation in democratic life through voting in elections, from the local to the European level.

The first strategy for holding the seminars was to hold them in the city of Valencia. Given a still complex situation after the floods suffered in previous months and also the proximity of the local festivities, we worked on a plan B that was the celebration in the city of Alicante where we also have a presence. In this sense, two days were organized on March 24 and April 5, 2025. A total of 39 people participated in these days who participated in a central hotel in Alicante.

Experts and politicians were invited to the conference, as well as 12 related presentations were prepared for the seminar. After each presentation, questions and clarifications were answered, and even small debates were generated that were enriching for the attendees. In addition to the prepared presentations, the speakers promoted the debate and exchange of impressions in a group and sharing. In addition, a small videos were also shown in these small debates that helped to encourage participation.

Given the difficulty of having the same attendees on two different days, two days were planned to cover more participants where the same prepared presentations were reviewed that covered both the European aspects in terms of knowledge of the institutions, as well as the beneficial aspects of belonging to the European Union, as well as the opportunities and values that are the basis of the EU.

It began with the analysis of political institutions at both national and European level. The roles, functioning of the European institutions and national institutions. The second part focused on the benefits, challenges and opportunities that come with belonging to the EU, explaining in particular the economic, social and cultural benefits of the EU. There was also time to comment on the current challenges facing the EU, such as climate change, circular economy and immigration.

Various EU initiatives and policies aimed at its citizens and the continent in general were explained. The Charter of Fundamental Rights stands out, which protects essential rights,

and freedom of movement to study and work in member countries. The importance of citizen participation, especially through voting in European elections, and measures to combat disinformation were also addressed. Finally, policies to promote equality and non-discrimination, manage migration and asylum were described. The final part for the Green Deal and the circular economy for sustainability, and fighting climate change, underlining the EU's commitment to these values and objectives.

## 2 Preparation and announcements

Following the line defined for this activity, within the consortium the previous publicity was prepared that was also promoted on social networks.

The brochure created for this first seminar was:



### 3 The Programme and the Experts

The strategy followed to carry out the seminar completely according to the requirements to achieve a higher participation allowed to generate a very complete program that was replicated in the two days, only a few small adjustments changed on the second day.

The program (translated into English below) was followed and supported with prepared presentations that allowed the script to be followed efficiently. The modality of presentations and group comments has been very participatory.

Each expert prepared the presentations in advance according to their presentation. For the preparation of these presentations, Medio Cubo provided a template with the identifying information of the project and so that all were generated in the same style.

The presentations began on the 24th with a few words from the CEO of Medio Cubo (Mr. Javier Montesa) and the possibility of remote connection with the project partners were also presented at the beginning of the day. He also connected online with the Project partners for a formal presentation of each one.

The local representative and politician of the District of Alicante was invited, as well as experts with experience in European development and approach, who presented and explained the topics defined in the program.

#### 3.1 Documentation and presentations

The programme was designed to address the main issues of the European Union. These are the titles of each of the presentations:

- EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
- Freedom of movement, study and work in the EU
- The Importance of Voting in European Elections
- The role of citizenship in the European Community
- Fighting Disinformation in the EU
- EU social values: Equality and non-discrimination
- EU policies on the management of migration flows
- Common European Asylum System (CEAS)
- The European Green Deal: Towards a sustainable Europe
- EU climate change policies
- Circular Economy in the EU: Supporting Policies
- EU Policies for Sustainability

These presentations sought to give a multifaceted vision of the EU, highlighting its foundation in democratic and social values, the consolidation of citizens' rights, and the implementation of ambitious policies to address contemporary challenges such as migration, climate change and disinformation. It was intended to underline the importance of citizen participation, legal protection through the Charter of Fundamental Rights and judicial mechanisms, as well as the constant evolution of the EU to adapt to

a changing global environment. Sustainability and the circular economy are emerging as central axes of future policies, seeking to transform Europe into a global environmental leader.

It was stressed in the presentations that the EU is a project in constant evolution, based on values of dignity, freedom, equality and solidarity. The message was stressed that the EU has managed to consolidate citizens' rights and free movement, while developing ambitious policies to meet the challenges of the 21st century, with sustainability and climate action as prominent priorities. Citizen participation, from voting to legislative initiative, is presented as essential for the legitimacy and future of the European project. Despite internal and external challenges, the EU remains committed to building a stronger, more united Europe aligned with shared values.

The presentations were made in Spanish. We make a small summary in this report about the content of the presentations:

#### Fundamental Rights and European Citizenship:

- The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights is a vital document that consolidates civil, political, economic and social rights. Proclaimed in 2000 and binding since the Treaty of Lisbon (2009), it has the same legal value as the founding Treaties. It is structured around principles such as Dignity, Freedoms, Equality, Solidarity, Citizenship and Justice.
- "This vital document sets out essential civil, political, economic and social rights for all European citizens."
- European Citizenship, formally established in the Maastricht Treaty (1992), is reinforced with new participatory mechanisms in the Treaty of Lisbon (2009).
- Citizenship rights include the "Right to vote in European elections", "Freedom of movement in the EU" and "Diplomatic protection".
- Rights are protected by National Courts and the Court of Justice of the EU, with the European Commission as the "Guardian of the Treaties".

#### Free Movement and its Implications:

- Freedom of Movement is a fundamental pillar of the EU, allowing European citizens to move, study and work freely between member countries.
- "This right allows European citizens to move, study and work freely between member countries."
- The legal basis is found in Article 21 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU and is regulated by Directive 2004/38/EC.
- It includes "Right of entry and residence" (up to three months without additional conditions, beyond that requires employment, studies or resources), "Right to work" (equal employment, no additional permits, professional recognition), "Study opportunities" (programmes such as Erasmus+, academic recognition) and "Social security and healthcare" (systems coordination, European Health Insurance Card).

- There are "Limitations and Exceptions" justified by "Public Safety" or "Public Health", always subject to "Right to Appeal".

#### Democracy and Citizen Participation:

- The European Elections, held every five years, are essential for a democratic and representative EU. They elect members of the European Parliament, the only EU institution directly elected by universal suffrage.
- "The future of Europe is in your hands. Your electoral participation is essential to build a democratic and representative European Union."
- The European Parliament represents 450 million citizens and its decisions have a "daily impact" on daily life.
- The vote "Strengthens democracy", "Defines priorities" and "Influences economic, social and environmental decisions".
- Beyond voting, citizen participation is encouraged through the European Citizens' Initiative (proposed legislation with one million signatures), "Public Consultations" and "Citizens' Dialogues".

#### Equality and Non-Discrimination:

- Equality and Non-Discrimination are fundamental pillars of European identity, enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union.
- "Equality and non-discrimination are fundamental pillars of European identity."
- The legal framework has developed significantly, notably the Treaty of Amsterdam (1999) and Directives 2000/43/EC and 2000/78/EC.
- The EU has been actively working for "Gender Equality" (since the Treaty of Rome of 1957), combating "racial and ethnic discrimination" and protecting against discrimination on the basis of "Religion or belief", "Disability", "Age" and "Sexual orientation".
- There are "Protection and Enforcement Mechanisms" such as the Court of Justice, infringement proceedings and national equality bodies.
- Despite the advances, challenges such as the gender "pay gap" and "multiple discrimination" persist.

#### Migration Management and Asylum:

- The EU faces complex challenges in migration management, which require coordinated solutions.
- "The European Union faces unprecedented challenges in migration management."
- Migration policy has evolved, highlighting the European Agenda for Migration (2015) and the Pact on Migration and Asylum (2024), which seeks a new common regulatory framework based on "Solidarity", "Common Procedures" and "Humanitarian Approach".

- The EU implements a "Migration Management Matrix" that includes "External Borders" control, "Irregular Immigration" management and "International Cooperation".
- Key instruments include Frontex and the European Asylum Agency (EUAA).
- The Common European Asylum System (CEAS), created in 1999, seeks to harmonize asylum policies, based on the 1951 Geneva Convention. It includes the Procedures Directive, the Reception Directive and the Dublin Regulation.
- Asylum seekers have rights such as "Non-refoulement", "Legal assistance", "Health care" and "Education".
- The CEAS faces challenges such as "Disparities between systems", "Migratory pressure" and "Lack of solidarity". The reform proposed in the Pact seeks more efficient procedures and "Mandatory Solidarity".
- Temporary Protection, historically activated in 2022 for Ukrainian refugees, is an emergency mechanism.

#### Ecological Transition and Sustainability:

- The EU is leading the global fight against climate change and the transition to a sustainable Europe through the European Green Deal, launched in 2019.
- "It seeks to completely transform the economy and society of the continent. Its main goal: to achieve climate neutrality by 2050."
- The key objectives are "Climate Neutrality" by 2050 and a 55% reduction in emissions by 2030 (compared to 1990), consolidated in the European Climate Law.
- The Fit for 55 Package details measures for the Energy Efficiency Directive and the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive, key sectors for reducing emissions.
- The Emissions Trading System (ETS) sets an "emissions cap" that decreases annually.
- The EU promotes the Circular Economy to minimise waste and optimise resources. The "EU Circular Economy Action Plan" (2020) seeks to transform production models, focusing on "Sustainable Products" and prioritising resource-intensive sectors.
- The "Farm to Fork" strategy promotes sustainable agriculture and consumption.
- Investments are made in "Biodiversity Preservation", with ambitious targets for protected areas and ecosystem restoration.
- The EU Sustainability Policies integrate these objectives into a growth strategy that modernises the economy ("Economic Transformation") and is supported by a significant "Financial Framework and Recovery Plan" (30% of the budget for climate actions).
- "Sustainable Mobility" (zero-emission vehicles, efficient public transport) and "Sustainable Corporate Governance" (sustainability reporting, responsible practices) are promoted.

- "Green Innovation and Technology" is crucial, with funding programs such as LIFE.
- The EU exercises "International Collaboration" to promote global standards and support developing countries.

#### Challenges and Perspectives:

- Despite the achievements, the EU faces challenges such as the "Institutional Gap" and "Euroscepticism", reflecting the perception of Brussels as a distant bureaucracy.
- "Many citizens perceive Brussels as a distant and complex bureaucracy."
- "Territorial inequality" is a challenge, since the benefits of integration do not reach all regions equally.
- The fight against Disinformation is crucial to protect democracy, with the "European Democracy Action Plan" and the "Code of Practice on Disinformation".
- The "European Digital Media Observatory" and the "Rapid Alert System" are key instruments to combat disinformation.
- The legislative framework (Digital Services Act, European Media Freedom Act) evolves to provide effective tools.
- The "Balance between freedom and security" is a constant challenge in the fight against disinformation.
- The future of European and EU citizenship in general will depend on the "Active Participation" of citizens, "Adaptation to new challenges" (climate migration, geopolitical changes) and the ability to maintain a "Human Approach" in policies such as migration.

## 4 First seminar

The design of the seminar covered all the required and planned aspects to be addressed in terms of content:

### PROGRAM OF THE SEMINAR "EU Citizenship"

The seminar will take place at the **Hotel Leuka Alicante**

📍 C. Segura, 23, 03004 Alicante - Spain

**24 MARCH 2025 - EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. UE BENEFITS,  
CHALLENGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES**

(Zoom link with international partners)

09:30 - 10:00 | Registration and introduction

facilitated by César Carrión (MEDIO CUBO)

Reception and registration of participants

Presentation of the seminar and project objectives

10:00 - 10:30 | Non-formal education activities

Interactive questionnaire on national and European institutions, their role and impact on everyday life

Fundamental rights guaranteed by the EU (Charter of Fundamental Rights)

Freedom of movement, study and work in EU countries

Importance of voting in European elections and democratic participation

10:30 - 11:00 | Expert trainer intervention

facilitated by **María Rosario Navarro**, president of Blue Beehive association that works from local activities focusing on the European Union.

The role of citizenship in the European Community.

Impact of European decisions on citizens' lives

Combating disinformation and protecting democracy

11:00 - 11:15 | Coffee break

11:15 - 11:45 | Expert trainer intervention

facilitated by **Angélica María Valls**, local trainer for integration

EU Social Values: Equality and Non-Discrimination

EU policies on the management of migration flows

European System of Asylum and International Protection

11:45 AM - 12:30 PM | Intervention of an expert consultant

facilitated by **Ignacio Seguí** (expert consultant in social responsibility, digital transformation and sustainability)

The European Green Deal and the green transition

EU climate change policies

Energy sustainability and emissions reduction directives

Circular economy

12:30 - 13:00 | Conclusions and reflections on the contents examined. Closing of the Seminar

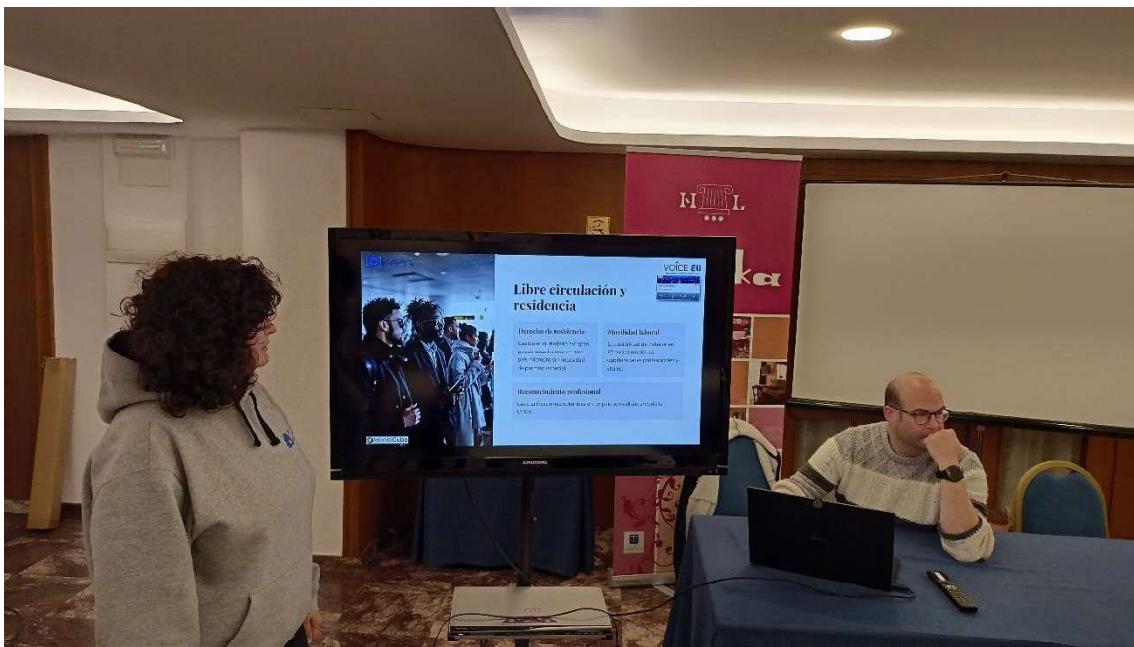
In addition to using Kahoot to make a pre-questionnaire more dynamic and to use a final questionnaire about the event.

This first seminar was attended by 21 participants. After each presentation, small debates and exchange of opinions were proposed among the participants in groups with the aim of promoting a greater active participation of all and a greater exchange of opinions.

#### 4.1 Photographic report first seminar

















## 5 Second seminar

Basically, the second seminar was a replica of the first, although some changes were introduced in terms of the disposition of the participants, since it was thought in the first seminar that participation in groups would encourage the exchange of opinions and debate, and the debates were really generated jointly for the whole group.

This Second Seminar was attended by 18 participants.

The brochure announcing it was:



The Second Seminar Program:

## PROGRAM OF THE SEMINAR "EU Citizenship"

The seminar will take place at the **Hotel Leuka Alicante**

• C. Segura, 23, 03004 Alicante - Spain

### 5 APRIL 2025 - EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. UE BENEFITS, CHALLENGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES

(Zoom link with international partners)

09:30 - 10:00 | Registration and introduction

facilitated by César Carrión (MEDIO CUBO)

Reception and registration of participants

Presentation of the seminar and project objectives

10:00 - 10:30 | Non-formal education activities

Interactive questionnaire on national and European institutions, their role and impact on everyday life

Fundamental rights guaranteed by the EU (Charter of Fundamental Rights)

Freedom of movement, study and work in EU countries

Importance of voting in European elections and democratic participation

10:30 - 11:00 | Expert trainer intervention

facilitated by **María Rosario Navarro**, president of Blue Beehive association that works from local activities focusing on the European Union.

The role of citizenship in the European Community.

Impact of European decisions on citizens' lives

Combating disinformation and protecting democracy

11:00 - 11:15 | Coffee break

11:15 - 11:45 | Expert trainer intervention

facilitated by **Angélica María Valls**, local trainer for integration

EU Social Values: Equality and Non-Discrimination

EU policies on the management of migration flows

## European System of Asylum and International Protection

11:45 AM - 12:30 PM | Intervention of an expert consultant

facilitated by **Ignacio Seguí** (expert consultant in social responsibility, digital transformation and sustainability)

The European Green Deal and the green transition  
EU climate change policies  
Energy sustainability and emissions reduction directives  
Circular economy

12:30 - 13:00 | Conclusions and reflections on the contents examined. Closing of the Seminar

### 5.1 Photographic report second seminar







## 6 Evaluation

### 6.1 Pre-questionnaire

In both seminars, a small non-formal questionnaire was carried out using Kahoot (<https://kahoot.it/solo/?quizId=9604e6eb-8b8f-4864-867c-8c0a5ee39f80>) with seven questions mainly with the aim of encouraging participation and reviewing the basics of the EU and for participants to test their knowledge.

¿Qué significa ser un ciudadano activo?

- ▲ Cumplir solo con las leyes
- ◆ Participar en la vida pública y contribuir a la comunidad
- Pagar impuestos
- Ser mayor de edad

¿Cuál de estas acciones representa la ciudadanía activa?

- ✗ Ignorar los problemas del barrio
- ✗ Votar solo cuando hay elecciones generales
- ✓ Participar en una asociación vecinal
- ✗ No respetar las normas si no te gustan

¿Cuál es un derecho fundamental para ejercer la ciudadanía activa?

▲ Tener una cuenta bancaria	◆ Poder viajar al extranjero
● Tener libertad de expresión	■ Saber varios idiomas

¿Qué papel tiene la educación en la ciudadanía activa?

▲ No tiene relación	◆ Fomenta el pensamiento crítico y la participación
● Sirve solo para encontrar trabajo	■ Ayuda a ganar más dinero

¿Qué institución facilita la participación democrática en una ciudad?

▲ El supermercado	◆ La comisaría de policía
● El ayuntamiento	■ La iglesia

¿Qué actitud muestra un ciudadano activo ante los problemas sociales?

▲ Se desentiende	◆ Los ignora si no le afectan directamente
● Se informa, propone soluciones y actúa	■ Espera que otros los resuelvan

¿Qué actitud muestra un ciudadano activo ante los problemas sociales?

▲ Se desentiende	◆ Los ignora si no le afectan directamente
● Se informa, propone soluciones y actúa	■ Espera que otros los resuelvan

## 6.2 Post-questionnaire

After each seminar, a second questionnaire was proposed to have a compilation of the evaluation and evaluations by the participants.

To facilitate the evaluation, an online questionnaire (<https://forms.gle/eMd1wQV8HKjWpmte6>) was carried out with simple answers that could be completed from the phone itself. To do this, a QR code was generated:





**VOICE-EU**  
Valuing Opportunities for Inclusive Civic Engagement in Europe

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**"EU CITIZENSHIP"**

## Evaluación del Seminario VOICE-EU

Este cuestionario permite valorar el seminario VOICE-EU que usted acaba de asistir. Por favor, complete todas las preguntas para que nos ayuden a mejorar. Muchas gracias por su participación.

[Iniciar sesión en Google](#) para guardar lo que llevas hecho. [Más información](#)

\* Indica que la pregunta es obligatoria

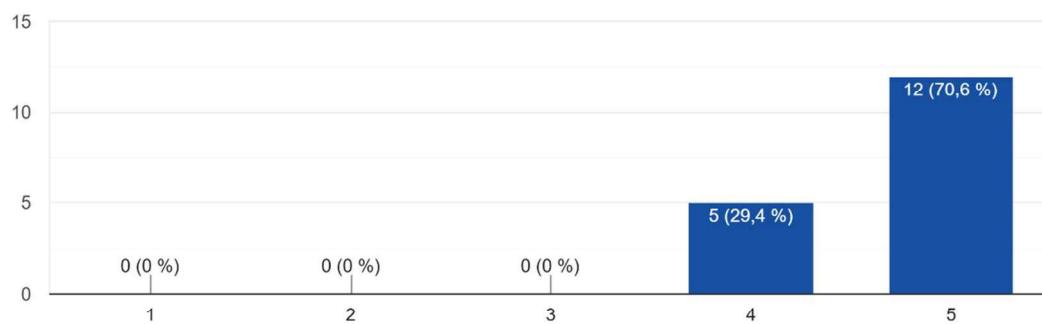
Valore del 1 al 5 la calidad de las presentaciones y los ponentes (Siendo 1 poca calidad y 5 la nota máxima) \*

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="radio"/>				

**1. Rate the quality of the presentations and speakers from 1 to 5 (with 1 being poor quality and 5 being the maximum mark)**

Valore del 1 al 5 la calidad de las presentaciones y los ponentes (Siendo 1 poca calidad y 5 la nota máxima)

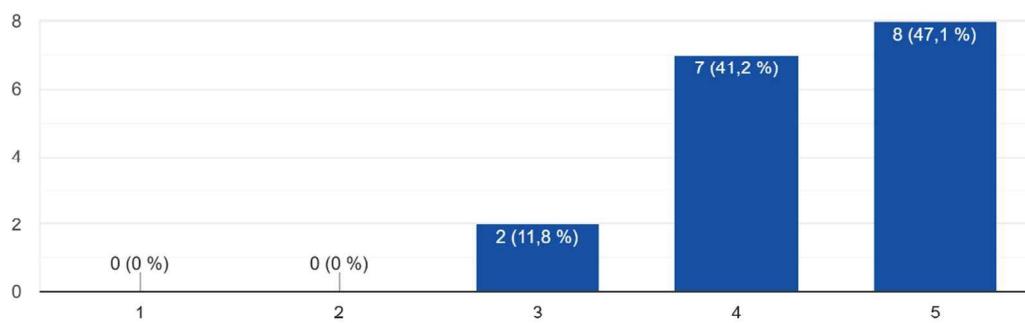
17 respuestas



**2. Rate the facilities where the seminar has taken place from 1 to 5.**

Valore del 1 al 5 las instalaciones donde se ha desarrollado el seminario.

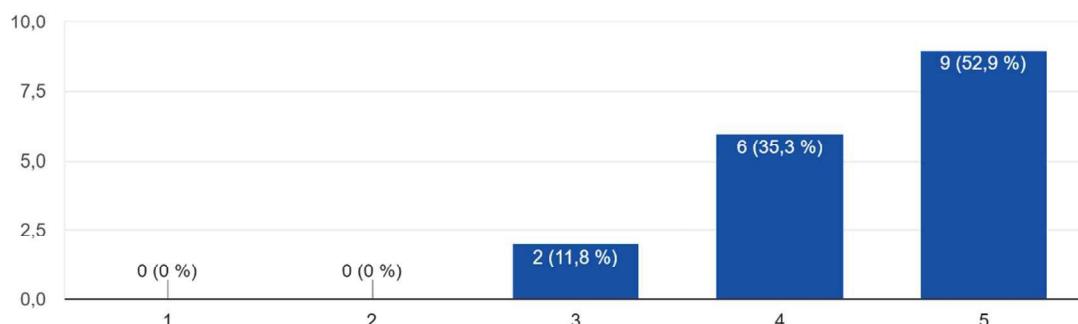
17 respuestas



**3. Rate from 1 to 5 the adequacy of the time spent in the seminar to deal with the topics (with 1 being the score of very little time and 5 the adequate time)**

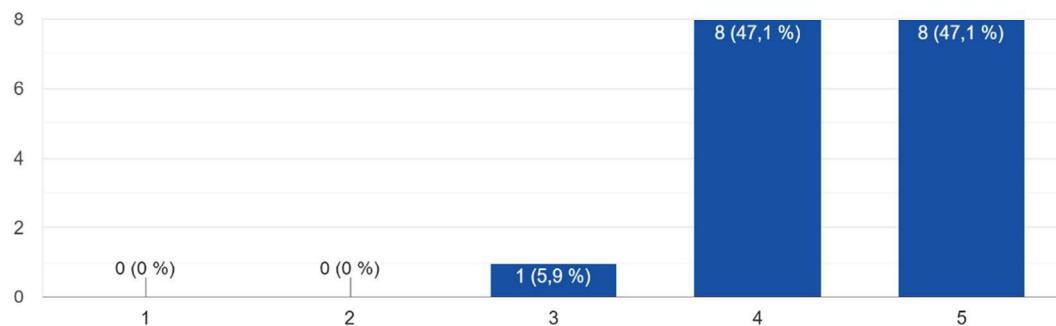
Valore del 1 al 5 la adecuación tiempo dedicado en el seminario a tratar los temas (siendo 1 la puntuación de muy poco tiempo y 5 el tiempo adecuado)

17 respuestas



**4. Rate from 1 to 5 the formula used for presentation and generation of small debates for the exchange of opinions between the participants (1 being not very interesting and 5 being very interesting)**

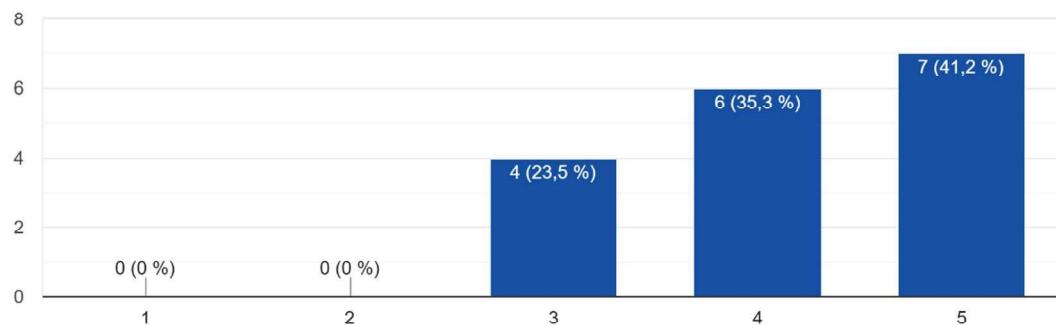
Valore del 1 al 5 la fórmula empleada de presentación y generación de pequeños debates para el intercambio de opiniones entre los participantes (siendo 1 poco interesante y 5 muy interesante)  
17 respuestas



**5. Rate from 1 to 5 the increase in knowledge about the EU that you think you have acquired with this seminar**

Valore del 1 al 5 el incremento de conocimientos sobre la UE que usted considera que ha adquirido con este seminario

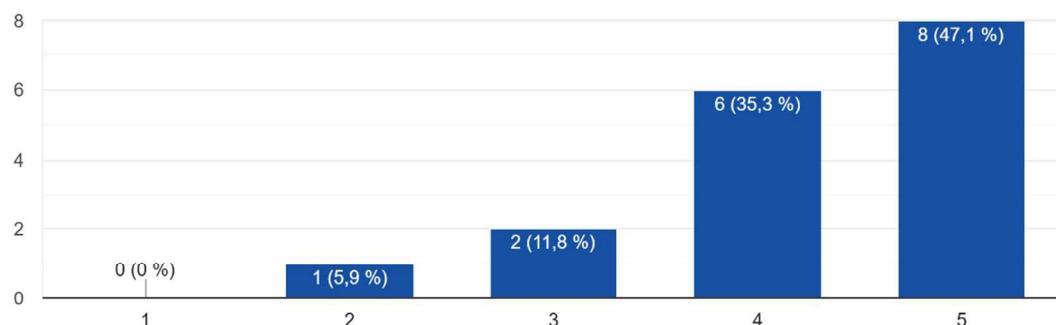
17 respuestas



**6. Rate from 1 to 5 if you have increased your conviction about civic participation after the seminar (with 1 being no increase and 5 being the maximum increase)**

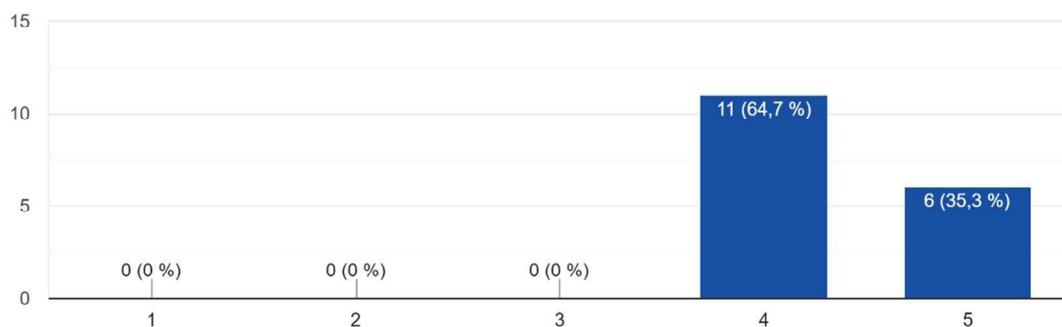
Valore del 1 al 5 si ha incrementado su convicción sobre la participación cívica tras el seminario (siendo 1 al no haber ningún incremento y 5 el incremento máximo)

17 respuestas



**7. Please give an overall assessment of the seminar from 1 to 5 with respect to your initial expectations**

Por favor de una valoración general del seminario del 1 al 5 respecto a sus expectativas iniciales  
17 respuestas



**8. Please let us know any additional comments you would like to make (things to improve, your impressions, etc.)**

- Good atmosphere, very friendly people
- The format has been good and I have learned many things that I did not know, the coffee and everything correct
- Very well developed and the speakers with a lot of patience and desire for us to give our opinion
- I found it very interesting and now I know more about the function of the union e.
- thanks for everything
- The initiative is very interesting and I would like to try the application that you have commented on
- Everything is very good, thank you it has been interesting
- I was already aware of the participation to vote, but I liked to learn about other aspects of the union and the advantage it represents
- More entertaining than I expected, very participative
- The TV screen was a little small, but it looked good, q
- no comment

## 7 Conclusions

From the results of the questionnaire we can highlight that several participants expressed general satisfaction, rating the seminar as very interesting and useful.

The formula of presentation and debate was received and, although the arrangement of the participants from tables to chairs was changed from the first to the second seminar, the participation was really high in the two sessions and has been well received.

In view of the results, the seminar fulfilled its objective of increasing knowledge about the EU, as some attendees mentioned having "learned a lot of things that I did not know" and now know "more things about the role of the EU".

Regarding civic participation, one comment indicates that, even though I was already aware of voting, the seminar was useful to learn about "other aspects of the union and the advantage it represents", suggesting an increase or reinforcement of conviction in this area.

The atmosphere generated as respectful of opinions is noteworthy and the logistical aspects were also correctly valued.

In summary, based on the available comments, the VOICE-EU Seminar was perceived as interesting, entertaining and participatory. It succeeded in increasing knowledge about the EU and, in some cases, reaffirming or broadening understanding of the importance of civic participation. The discussion formula was effective, the atmosphere was positive, and the speakers showed patience and willingness to participate.