

E-WORDS National Reports: THE NETHERLANDS

1) Methods applied to directly involve citizens

For the webinars (Activity 1), which were mainly directed towards the involvement of students, we widely advertised within the university, the internal newsletter, the university website and via colleagues who announced the event in class. This attracted quite a number of students, who were not directly involved in the preliminary discussions we had held in the previous weeks. The webinars were livestreamed on facebook, allowing a number of participants to follow who otherwise would not have been able to participate. The second webinar was taking place within the context of the annual MACCH conference in Maastricht with the result that the EWORDS project was not only accessible to a wider audience but also generated interest of cross-border nature with many participants coming from the Euroregion.

For the Movie Series (Activity 3) we advertised extensively all over the city, on facebook and reached particularly a lot of citizens on the facebook EWORDS Maastricht website (over 25.000 were indirectly reached). The debates after the movie series were lively and involved most of the audience.

For the Artistic Labs (Activity 3) we used the channels of our society partners plus the same ones already used during the movie series.

For the Practitioners workshop (Activity 5) we advertised more in Amsterdam due to the location and used the already well-followed channels of the DIA. The debates on 14 and 15 March 2019 and the following visit to the exhibition in the Dutch Holocaust Museum were very well attended as a result.

2) Typologies of citizens involved

Citizens involved comprised students, university staff members, locals of all ages, researchers, practitioners, artists. The audience was always very international with people coming from all over Europe.

3) Most important achievements of E-WORDS

The most important achievements of EWORDS was that the project start a public debate on this topic. Each event was closely connecting the past and the present (i.e. by making direct reference to contemporary political developments) with the aim to raise awareness. The amount of debate this generated and the fact that many participants attended several of our events, demonstrated how successful the project was.



4) Biggest challenges faced during E-WORDS implementation

One of the biggest challenges (but also one of the biggest chances) was the fact that our audience was very international. We had participants not only from very different European countries of origin but also from outside of Europe. This diversified the debate but also meant that we had to adapt to different sensibilities and often could not take knowledge about the past and present political situation for granted.

5) How the events contributed to generate any policy activity or keep the cultural debate alive in your country

The amount of debate generated was surprising. Citizens continued to interact even after the events had ended. Resonance was especially strong on the university level with many young people participating.

6) How you see the future of the project, its sustainability in your country

Participants were very enthusiastic about the organised events and there were a number of calls to continue with some of them (i.e. the movie series). From a university perspective, the project contributed to capacity building in outreach activities fostering dialogue between universities and civil society.

