

CRESTART -Creative rESilient leARning communiTies meeting COVID challenges
2021-1-HU01-KA220-ADU-000027016

COUNTRY REPORT ON 2ND SOCIAL IMPACT MEASUREMENT

COUNTRY – CYPRUS

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Ju_LQWZM8TntrizdMWJGdpxcYRCarBKqo2Oghk3uT9A/edit#responses

MEASURING THE LEVEL OF SATISFACTION AND THE IMPACT ON SOCIETY
WITHIN THE CRESTART PROJECT
2023



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Introduction

The pandemic brought significant changes to our social and cultural life. In this and similar crisis situations, there is an increasing need for cooperation and communities helping each other.

In the framework of the “CRESTART - Creative rESilient leARning communiTies meeting COVID challenges” Erasmus + project we collected creative solutions and good practices that allows us in times of crisis to help and support each other. Our goal is to provide tools for local residents/individuals/citizens with which local people can help each other in difficult situations within their community.

What is social impact measurement?

Social impact measurement refers to the process of evaluating and quantifying the effects of social initiatives, programs, or interventions on individuals, communities, and society. It is a critical tool for organizations and stakeholders to understand the effectiveness and outcomes of their social investments.

Change:

- arising in the quality of life of the people benefiting from the project
- can be connected to the project activities
- planned and unplanned
- positive and negative
- measured systematically and regularly.

During the CRESTART project all the partners agreed to use the same methodology. The chosen social impact measurement is based on the so-called (Theory of Change, TOC). The project and the SIM followed the main principles and steps of TOC.

A theory of change is a description and illustration of how and why a desired change is expected. It focuses on mapping or "filling in" it, what has been described as the "missing middle ground" of a programme or change initiative (its activities or interventions) and how these lead to the desired goals the desired outcomes. The steps to do this are to first identify the desired long-term goals and then identify the conditions (outcomes) that need to be met to be achieved in order for the objectives to be realised.

The outcomes then form the basis for determining the type of activities or interventions that lead to the achievement of the long-term goal as a precondition for achieving the objective. Through this approach, a better understanding of the activities and the achievement of the long-term objectives. It also leads to better evaluation, as progress towards longer-term goals becomes measurable, going beyond the definition of programme outputs.

As part of the methodology, a questionnaire survey was carried out, where the number of respondents was also indicator within the project. The questionnaire was used to identify age groups, municipalities and by gender, it can be used to draw conclusions from the original assumptions. As the pandemic has brought major changes in our social and cultural life, the questionnaire survey tool was used to gather the best local knowledge on the practices at



local level to share them and provide creative tools, to empower local citizens to support each other and their communities in times of crisis. We can also measure social impact by filling in the questionnaire.

Structure of the questionnaire



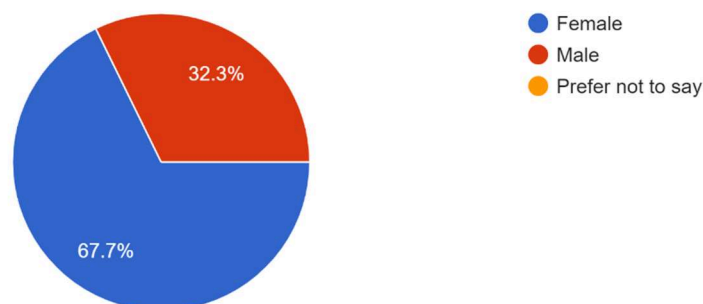
Results

The questionnaire survey was conducted from February until April 2023. A link to the questionnaire was available on the CRESTART project's website. Several participants from previous surveys were invited to fill in the questionnaire and contacted either via telephone communication or via skype. A total of 31 valid responses were received.

Demographics:

1. What is your gender?

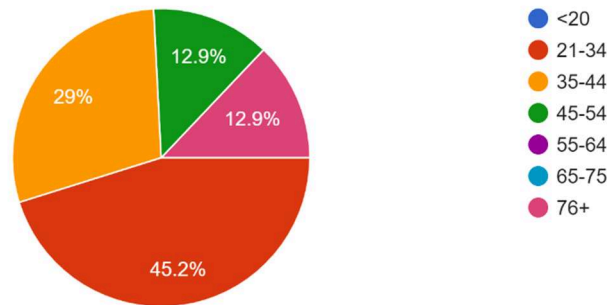
31 responses



For the case of Cyprus, 67.7% of the respondents were women and 32.3% were men.

2. Which category includes your age?

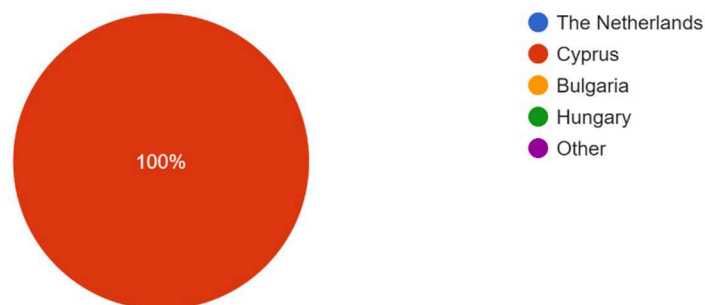
31 responses



For the case of Cyprus, the majority of the respondents were between 21-34 years old (45.2) and 35-44 years old (29%). There were a few respondents who were further on in life age-wise (75+ years old, 13.8%) or middle age (13.8%, 45-54 years old).

3. In which country do you live?

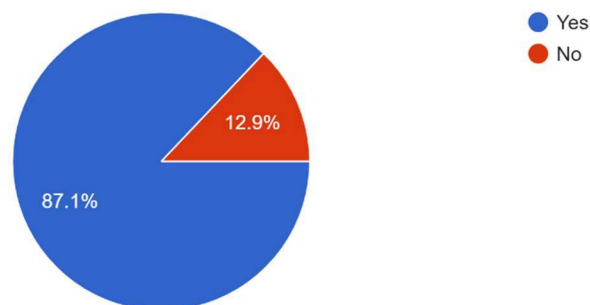
31 responses



Based on the information shared, all 31 participants live in Cyprus.

4. Do you live in partner city: Nicosia, Rotterdam, Érd, Lovech or surrounding?

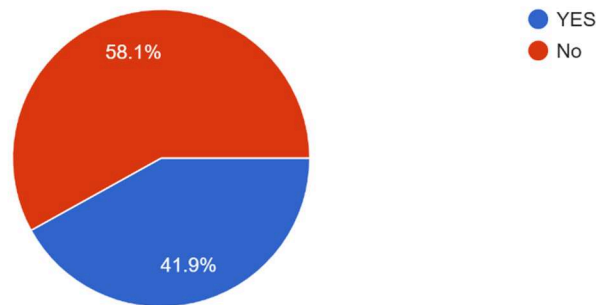
31 responses



According to the participants' answers, a high number of participants (87.1%) live in Nicosia, the capital of the island of Cyprus.

4.1. Have you already filled in the first Crestart questionnaire?

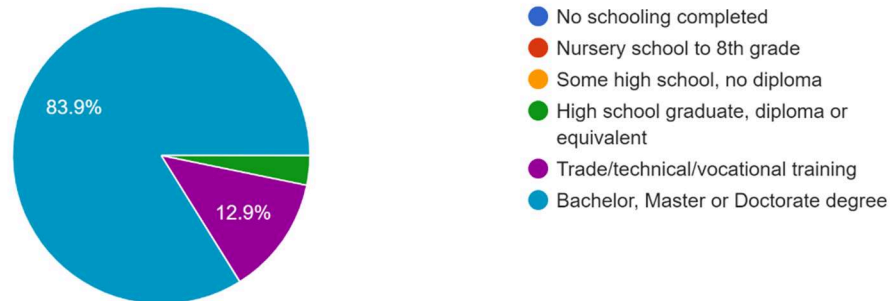
31 responses



The 31 participants involved in this survey mainly live in urban areas (70%).

6. What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed?

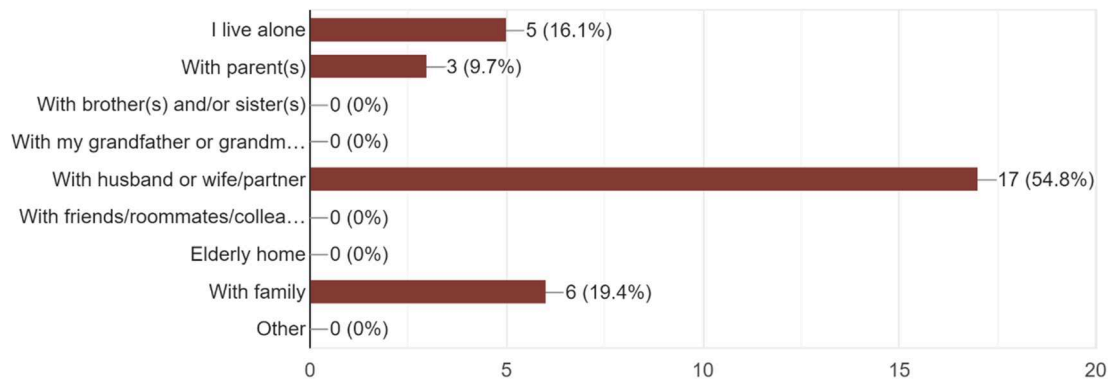
31 responses



A high percentage of participants (83.9%) have a Bachelor, Master or Doctorate degree.

7. What is your current living situation?

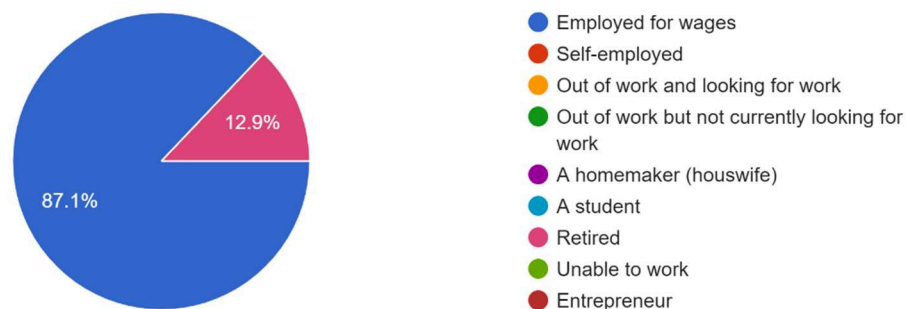
31 responses



The majority of the participants live with a husband or a wife and with family.

8. Are you currently.....?

31 responses



A large majority of the participants (87.1%) are employed for wages, whereas the rest are retired (12.9%).

Short evaluation demographics

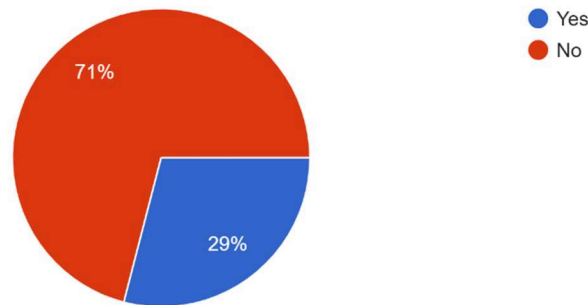
In this demographic, respondents are mainly females. A few elderly people participated, with the majority of the respondents being 40 years and beyond, working professionals, living mainly in the capital of the island of Cyprus, Nicosia.

Local cultural life, activities, effect of the project on society

The next block of the questionnaire assesses the cultural offerings available in the respondents' place of residence, activities and gaps.

15. Do you miss anything in the local cultural offering?

31 responses

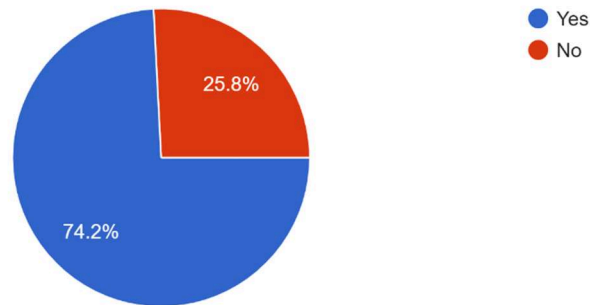


The majority of participants (71%) expressed that they do not miss anything in the local cultural offering. Some of the respondents reported missing the following:

- -Music concerts
- -Walking distance cultural events
- Cyprus culture and ethics need to be promoted in a more systematic and efficient way
- Lack of communication
- A user-friendly, elaborate, and continually updated central online hub collecting all local cultural events and opportunities - both single-time time events as well as established recurring opportunities of engagement (e.g. organised cultural clubs offering weekly activity engagement)
- Public library activities are lacking
- Concerts
- Indoor events
- Social events
- Cultural activities, and
- Sport activities.

16. Do you participate in cultural activities in your living environment?

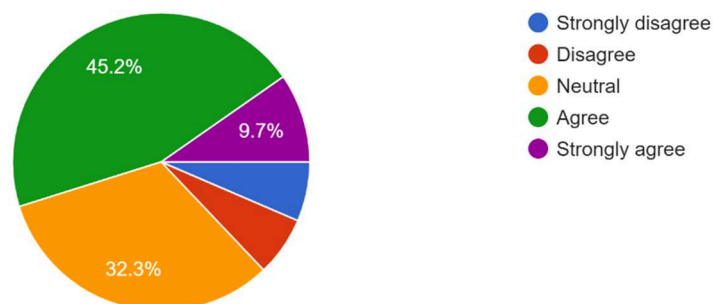
31 responses



A high percentage of the participants (75.2%) reported that they participate in cultural activities in their living environment.

17. I am satisfied with the local cultural live and activities

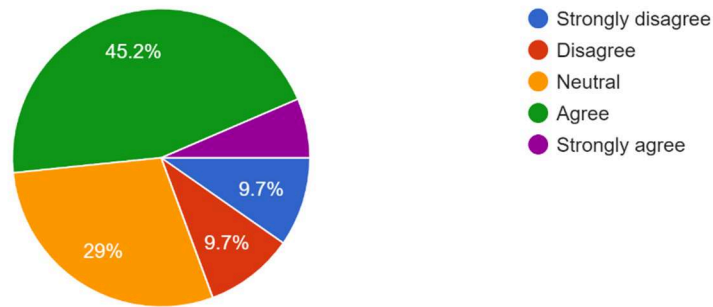
31 responses



Almost half of the participants reported that they are satisfied with the local live activities (45.2% agree and 9.7% strongly agree). A number of participants were neutral (32.3%) and a smaller number of participants were not happy/ satisfied.

18. I have sufficient information about local, social or cultural events/communities

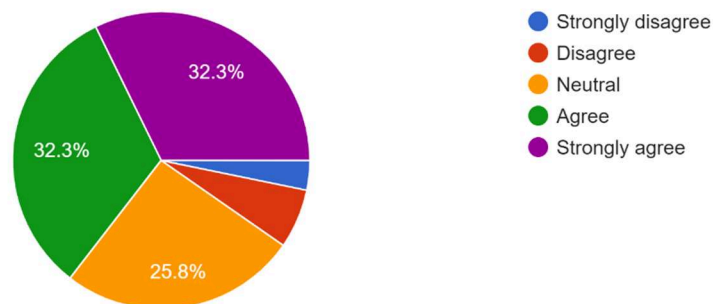
31 responses



Almost half of the survey participants reported that they have sufficient information about local, social or cultural events/ communities. Interestingly, 29% were neutral and 19.4% reported that they do not have adequate information.

19. The cultural activities create social connections within my living environment.

31 responses



To a high percentage (65.6%) participants believe that the cultural activities create social connections within their living environment. Interestingly 25.8% remain neutral.

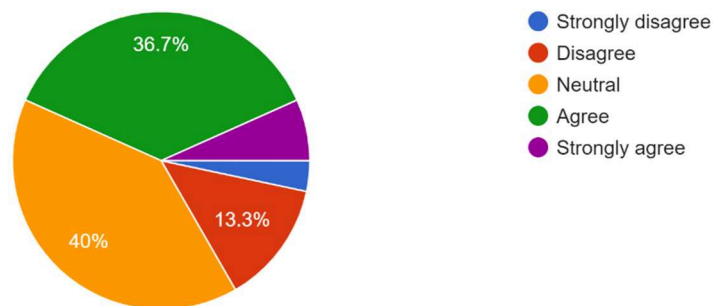
Short evaluation on local cultural events

Have respondents miss little in cultural offerings and report that they regularly participate in cultural activities in their community. The majority of respondents are satisfied with cultural events and opportunities offered, however, there is a percentage of respondents who are neutral or not satisfied. The provision of information about the activities being organised is adequate. More than half of the respondents indicated that cultural activities enhanced togetherness in the community. However, it is interesting to notice that a significant proportion of respondents were neutral regarding this statement.

Participation of the responders in local cultural activities

20. I am active in the local community.

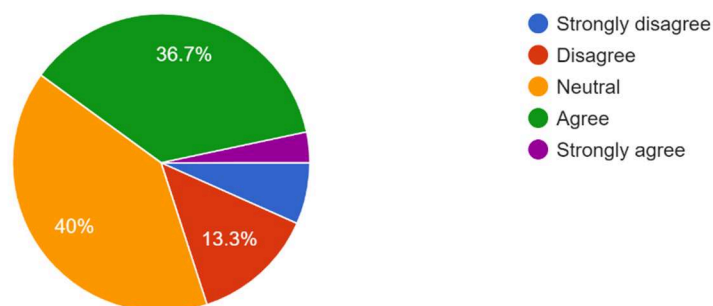
30 responses



Interestingly though about 40% of the participants are active in the local community, 40% remain neutral and the rest remain inactive.

21. I have enough creative ideas, tools to form the local cultural or social life.

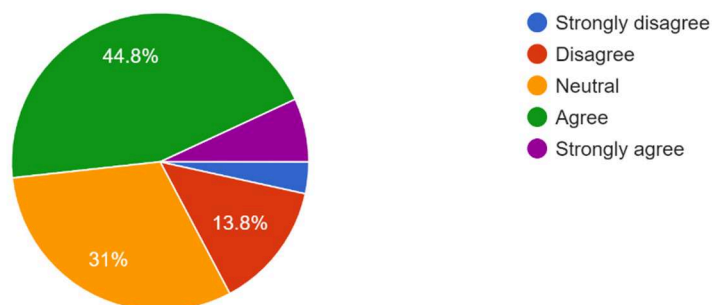
30 responses



Similarly to the above, about 40% of the participants report that they have enough creative ideas, tools to form the local cultural or social life, but 40% remain neutral or have no creative ideas...

29. My need for cultural activities has changed during the COVID epidemic.

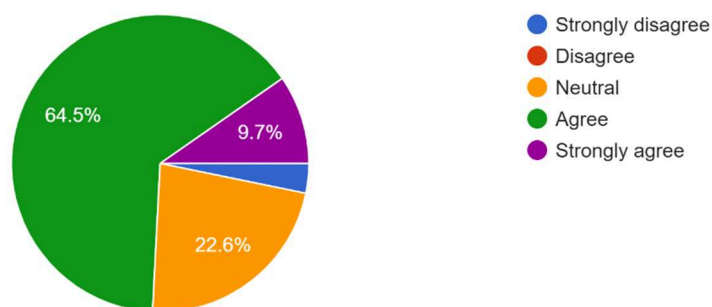
29 responses



About half of the survey participants report that their need for cultural activities has changed during the COVID epidemic, 31% remain neutral and about 20% state that they do not see their needs for cultural activities changing during the pandemic.

30. In case of a disbalance or crisis in society I am ready to actively support local community

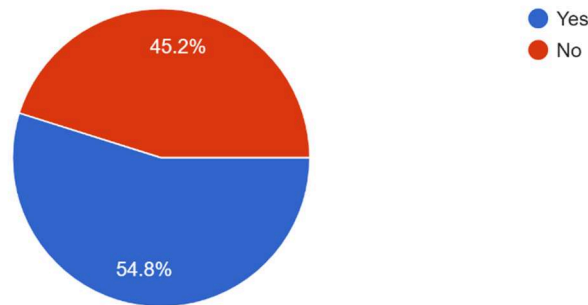
31 responses



A high percentage of participants (about 75%), report that in case of a disbalance or crisis in society they are ready to actively support the local community (9.7% strongly agree and 64.5% agree). Interestingly 22.6% remain neutral.

22. Do you have specific talents that you could contribute to cultural activities?

31 responses



Slightly more than half of the participants report that they have specific talents that could contribute to cultural activities.

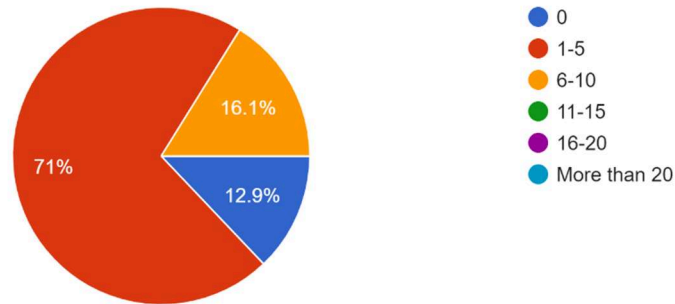
22. Please describe your talents

In describing their talents, participants report the following:

- organisational skills
- language speaking
- sport trainer
- writing
- dancing
- creative writing
- well-being good practices
- theatre
- educational and creative methods to be used in cultural events or programmes that promote culture
- gardening
- singing in a choir
- developing urban green spaces
- reuse waste
- fabric arts
- events organization
- team-building activities
- wellbeing expertise/psychology applications
- conceptualising, designing and offering woodworking lessons for children
- communication
- coordinating stakeholders
- organising events
- good communication skills
- foreign language teaching

23. How many hours per week would you like to be involved in community/cultural activities in your living environment

31 responses



Interestingly a high percentage of participants are willing to be involved in community/cultural activities in their living environment and devote from 1-5 hours (71%). Others (16.1%) are happy to contribute for 6-10 hours and the rest (12.9) are not really interested.

Short evaluation participation in local community

Interestingly, about half of the respondents are active within the local community, while about 70% of them would like to be involved in community/ cultural activities in their living environment and devote from 1-5 hours. They are willing to share skills, knowledge and talents. The percentage of people remaining neutral however is an interesting aspect to notice.

Good practices

One of the aims of the project is to identify and showcase local examples of good practice. To learn about these good practices, the questionnaire also included a question to bring to surface these ideas and share as widely as possible. The project partners would like to disseminate as wide as possible the good practices in crisis management, which can work at local level.

LIST OF GOOD PRACTICES FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRE

31. Do you have any good examples and creative solution of existing and new cultural activities that connected people in your living environment during a crisis situation (e.g.: COVID pandemic, war refugees, etc.)?

As for some good examples the following may be listed, based on participants responses:

- virtual activities (museums, galleries, singers)
- online fitness
- social media
- roof painting
- theatre workshops



- donations
- campaigns (online)
- book exchange
- anti-racist open bazzars
- kitchen exchanges
- music exchanges
- concerts with music from different countries
- knowledge games to get to know cultures
- quizzes
- team games
- storytelling of experiences from other countries
- success stories

Conclusions

The results of the survey show that there are potentially individuals and groups of people who want to do something for society, especially at a time of crisis. They are willing to apply their skills and knowledge as well as their talents. Captivatingly we could not but notice the percentages of people remaining neutral as well as the percentages of individuals reporting that they have not access to the information. This paves the way for more creative solutions that will foster higher interest, engagements and participation as well as even more alternative cultural opportunities.

