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:	MAGHWEB
PIC number:	935616314
Project name and acronym:	*Connecting Rural Europe: Networking and development in small towns* **Rural EU**

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP5
Event name:	INTERNATIONAL EVENT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY AND THIRD SECTOR ORGANISATION STAFF (ITALY)
Type:	In Situ
In situ/online:	In situ
Location:	Palazzo Adriano (Italy)
Date(s):	18/06/2025 – 20/06/2025
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.maghweb.org/rural-eu-un-inco…are-sfide-comuni/
Participants	
Female:	12

Male:	13		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Italy]:	10		
From country 2 [Spain]	5		
From country 3 [Croatia]	5		
From country 4 [Romania]	5		
Total number of participants:	25	From total number of countries:	4

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The 3 day international event in Palazzo Adriano gathered members of local authorities (mayors and administrators) and third sector organisations (youth workers, project managers) from the project partnership's small rural areas in Spain, Croatia, Romania and Palazzo Adriano and the Sicani region for a series of workshops, exchanges and meetings about how to create positive processes of transformation in rural areas on the basis of each context's focus group results. The themes addressed during the gathering were divided across the three days and addressed in a collective, collaborative and co-facilitated way by all the different actors involved across the town's local community spaces (the council's Albanian cultural and history museum; the local Nuovo Cinema Paradiso musem; the office and co-working space of Palazzo Adriano's Youth Association, Ingegni).

On the first day of the event, after an interactive tour of Palazzo Adriano (the "Seven Stops of Palazzo Adriano") designed and led by members of the town's local youth association, the international delegation was welcomed by the mayor of Palazzo Adriano and all participants. The mayor led the participants through a comprehensive talk about Palazzo Adriano and its role in addressing wider depopulation problems in the rest of Europe and then, led by the mayor, the participants took part in an interactive debate and collaborative question and answer about the main problems facing towns in Rural Europe today regarding depopulation. Following the debate, each country group presented concrete case studies and examples from their own contexts regarding the strategies that they are currently putting in place to contrast depopulation. Each presentation, case study, example and strategy was then commented on in a plenary session by the rest of the group, who highlighted what they thought were the strengths and weaknesses of each case study/example/strategy. Following this active day of informative discussion and debate sessions, to conclude the first day, the international delegation was then taken on a tour of the local youth spaces in the town, where lively conversations took place with local young people about how they had built these spaces and the importance of them when it comes to contrasting depopulation.

On the second day of the event, participants took part in a dynamic all-day world caffé session to brainstorm and innovate new strategies and solutions that can be applied on an EU scale to contrast depopulation and the key problems and issues that emerged during the survey and local focus groups: mobility; access to education; employment opportunities; equity and inclusion; cultural and social opportunities; openness and synergy with Europe; emotional wellbeing. Divided into groups representing the key actors for rural development (young people, NGOs, local authorities), participants had to tour the different thematic tables of the world café, constructing "commitments" from their group and "demands" to other groups for each theme. The participants concluded their second day with a tour of the local museum containing artefacts, stimuli and stories about "Cinema Nuovo Paradiso" a famous Italian film that was shot in Palazzo Adriano. This tour allowed the international delegation to be inspired about how to promote the cultural potential of their own rural areas, and, in parallel, enabled the young people to feel empowered, proud and appreciated about the cultural promotion work that they had worked hard to put in place.

On the third day of the meeting, participants were engaged throughout the morning in a debriefing and debate session about the "commitments" and "demands" that had been innovated the day before, coming to group agreements about the most important commitments for each key actor for change in regard to each theme. The chosen commitments will now be elaborated by the partnership into a protocol of action to kickstart positive transformation processes as soon as possible. During the afternoon, divided into their country groups, participants brainstormed and defined the key points that they would communicate during their video interviews. Video interviews were then carried out by Maghweb's communication team within scenic areas of the town. The day concluded with a convivial meal in the community, home-cooking space of a local chef, enabling participants to continue their exchange of ideas, practices and build strong collaborative connections.

Here the video with the interviews of the participants: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crCFb41fm_w

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