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:	WP7
Event name:	Rural intercultural festival (Italy)
Type:	Festival
In situ/online:	In situ
Location:	Palazzo Adriano, Palermo (Italy)
Date(s):	31/07/2026 - 02/08/2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.maghweb.org/acqua-e-aree-interne-risorse-cultura-e-diritto-a-restare/
Participants	
Female:	73

Male:	78		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Italy]:	141		
From country 2 [Croatia]:	2		
From country 3 [Spain]:	2		
From country 4 [Romania]:	2		
From country 5 [Belgium]:	4		
Total number of participants:	151	From total number of countries:	5

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The activity took place in Palazzo Adriano between 31/07/2026 and 02/08/2026 as part of a broader festival programme held annually in the municipality, the Paradiso Film Fest. The main theme of the Rural EU festival was access to resources and the protection of rural areas and their communities. The following activities were organised as part of the festival:

1) Public debate on the right to stay

The event involved representatives from Maghweb and the association Cori The Project. Both organisations are part of a civic movement called Patto per Restare, which was established through the collaboration of more than 60 Sicilian organisations working in different fields to create the conditions that enable young people to continue living in rural areas.

During the event, in addition to the contributions and experiences shared by the participating organisations, members of the local community took the floor to describe their own experiences and suggest possible areas for intervention. Representatives of local institutions from Palazzo Adriano and the surrounding area also contributed to the debate, presenting the work already carried out and the activities currently being planned.

Particular attention was devoted to European opportunities and to the role of programmes such as CERV and Erasmus+. The events and activities implemented within the framework of the present project were also presented publicly.

2) Presentation of Luca Martinelli's book and debate on the exploitation of natural resources

The event included the presentation of the book *Imbottigliati* by journalist Luca Martinelli, an expert on rural areas and the exploitation of natural resources.

During the presentation, the author discussed both the difficulties experienced by rural areas and their communities when local natural resources are appropriated for commercial purposes, and the grassroots responses developed to protect local territories and community rights.

3) Performance *Perché dovremmo pensarci corpi d'acqua?*

In connection with the theme of protecting natural resources, actress Maria Angela Sagona performed the text *Perché dovremmo pensarci corpi d'acqua?*, written by Elisa Chillura and originally presented during TEDx Caltanissetta.

The performance aimed to encourage the audience to reflect on why we often fail to recognise that human beings are an integral part of nature and that natural resources are essential for the survival of communities, particularly in rural areas. The speech explored the connections between bodies, ecosystems and memory. Thinking of ourselves as bodies of water means recognising the web of interdependencies that runs through us and questioning the responsibilities we carry in inhabiting and caring for our territories.

4) Glitch art video installation – *Paradiso VHS*

Throughout the festival, the video installation *Paradiso VHS* was open to the public. The installation was created by Palermo al Vapore, an artist who uses glitch art as a means of raising awareness, together with Maghweb's audio production team. The Sosio River, public fountains and communal washhouses became fragments of a collective memory, revisited in the light of drought and the water crisis.

5) Short film screenings

The sub-theme selected for the short film programme was "anticorpi" ("antibodies"), understood as the ability of communities to respond to difficulties and challenges. A total of 28 short films and one feature film focusing on rural areas were screened.

6) Local product tastings and meetings with community producers

With the aim of promoting local products and encouraging interaction between international guests and the local community, several tastings of locally produced food and products were organised.

It is also worth noting that, in addition to the project's international guests from Spain, Croatia and Romania, some participant from Belgium attended the festival activities.

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