

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:	ZAVOD SOPOTNIKI, ZAVOD ZAMEDGENERACIJSKO SOLIDARNOST (Sopotniki),
PIC number:	904286963
Project name and acronym:	[Rural Communities pushing BEYOND COVID-19] — [BEYOND]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	2
Event name:	Event 2 in the Municipality of Ajdovščina, Slovenia
Type:	<p>[insert, e.g. workshop, seminar, training, conference, etc]</p> <p>The event was organized as a 3-day event with various activities: Day 1 - Organization of the opening presentations and activities connected to inter-generational solidarity (T2.1.): The event kicked off with opening remarks from mayors of the Municipality of Ajdovščina and Cestica. This was followed by presentations from the project partners, and an interactive questionnaire where participants were asked about the best ways to support and assist elderly persons (and other needs). Breakout sessions were organized at the end of day allowing participants to discuss their activities and measures for supporting elderly persons in their communities. Each group answered the questions and presented their findings.</p> <p>Day 2 - Presentations and Group Activities: Activities were organized in line with T2.2. and T2.3. in the event description. Day two focused on showcasing/demonstrating innovative practices enhancing the quality of life in rural communities. This included presentations, discussions and group activities held by the Sopotniki Institute on their free transportation services for the elderly, the Dobra Pot Institute on their heritage preservation project, Toyota Adria d.o.o. on their rural mobility solution, and the Municipality of Ajdovščina on their participatory processes. In order to give the participants a clear indication of how to assist elderly persons in the community, Sopotniki held a group activity and demo showing the “do’s and don’ts” of supporting elderly persons.</p> <p>Day 3 – Project Consortium Meeting: The final day consisted of a project meeting, where participants evaluated the event and planned for future activities. Sopotniki and the Municipality of Ajdovščina provided press releases to the media in cooperation with the partnership. This ensured that there was media coverage and that the wider public was aware of Sopotniki and Ajdovščina’s best practices re: supporting elderly populations.</p>
In situ/online:	<i>In-situ</i>
Location:	Slovenia, Ajdovščina
Date(s):	June 7th, 2023 – June 9th, 2023
Website(s) (if any):	
Participants	
Female:	45
Male:	42
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Croatia]:	10
From country 2 [Slovenia]:	57
From country 3 [Italy]:	8
From country 4 [Hungary]:	8
From country 5 (Germany)	4

Total number of participants:	87	From total number of countries:	5
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The event took place in over three days (from Wednesday, June 7th – Friday, June 9th, 2023) in Ajdovščina, Slovenia. All activities of the event were held in-situ. The activities were organized in a manner ensuring that the following objectives were achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To enhance awareness on how inter-generational solidarity builds the sense of belonging in the community and how volunteer-based actions benefit the entire community ▪ To reflect on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on elderly and younger generations ▪ To demonstrate how solidarity between citizens contributes to reinforcing local actions <p><u>Day 1:</u></p> <p>On the first day of the event, there was the opening ceremony, an interactive questionnaire and a group activity (breakout sessions). The inaugural day of the event was marked by an enlightening address by the Mayor of the Municipality of Ajdovščina, Mr. Tadej Beočanin. He highlighted the diligent efforts being undertaken by the municipality to promote citizen engagement in the formation of local policies. The mayor stressed the importance of advancing not only economic development but also fostering improvement in the citizens' quality of life in vital areas such as education, sports, elderly care, and support for other vulnerable social groups. The event was further enriched by the Mayor of Cestica, Mirko Korotaj, who also shared insights and experiences from his own municipality, drawing some parallels between what was happening during Covid-19 and the current difficulties with floods and landslides.</p> <p>After the opening remarks by the mayors, Patrick Galeski (representing Cestica) presented the outcomes of Event 1 of the project. This was followed by a short presentation by the project partners who presented their activities and summarized the main lessons learned from their work during the COVID-19 Pandemic.</p> <p>In the next activity, participants answered an interactive questionnaire (via the Mentimeter app) on their smartphones to remind them of the basic concepts of intergenerational cooperation, solidarity and volunteering. After the questionnaire was completed by participants, the answers were reviewed and discussed in order to highlight the importance of volunteering (in the right way). The quiz was followed by breakout groups where all participants discussed the topics: 1) Intergenerational Solidarity during COVID-19, 2) Role of Local Authorities and NGOs in Pandemic, 3) Looking Ahead: Post-Pandemic Solidarity. the groups presented their findings and best practice examples, which contributes to creating new ideas to promote intergenerational solidarity among the partners/participants over the long-term.</p> <p><u>Day 2:</u></p> <p>The second day of the event, which was graced by a large group of enthusiastic participants, offered a wealth of knowledge regarding the "bottom-up" and participatory practices that can significantly improve the quality of life in rural communities.</p> <p>The day's agenda included an exposition/demo of the free transportation services for the elderly, an initiative formed by the Sopotniki Institute. The director of the institution presented how the story of the "Companions" (i.e. Sopotniki) began, how the model of free transport works, and highlighted the adjustments that the institution has made in order to be able to carry out its activities during the pandemic (insertion of Plexiglas barriers, recruitment of staff, delivery of food and medicine, etc.). The IT infrastructure that the institution has developed and which allows them to work efficiently and with transparency was also presented in more detail during the presentation.</p> <p>The presentation was followed by a group activity: a Demonstration Exercise on good and bad practices ("do's and don'ts) in providing support to older people during a pandemic and sharing of experiences.</p> <p>The second presentation of the was held by the Dobra Pot Institute on the 'The Lore' (https://izrocilo.si) platform, which was developed at the time of the Corona measures, when it was not possible to hold live workshops and activities. The project "Izročilo" (eng: The Lore) is based on the need to preserve the heritage of the local areas of Brkini and Karst. It aims to pass the value of heritage to the younger generation, raise awareness of the importance of preserving the rich natural and cultural heritage of the area and showcase new-age potentials of how to use heritage for the development of entrepreneurship in rural areas. The third presentation was about the ToyotaGO service by Toyota Adria d.o.o. (https://www.toyota-go.si), a modern solution for mobility designed specifically for rural areas where existing public transportation may not yield optimal results. In addition to a demonstration of the mobile app for booking transport, the presentation described a model for scheduling and pooling transport that seeks to optimize routes and ensure the sustainability of the solution. The focus on key target groups was presented: young people (extracurricular activities), elderly people (access to services in the city – free of charge for users of the Sopotniki Institute service).</p> <p>The last presentation/activities offered the attendees an in-depth understanding of the participatory processes being employed by the Municipality of Ajdovščina, which included an explanation/showcase of how participatory budgeting empowers citizens to partake in decision-making and financing of projects in</p>			

their local communities. It was explained how Ajdovščina allocates funds to the initiative, the steps it takes to approve local actions funded via participatory budgeting and examples of projects co-funded locally via the approach.

The day ended with a guided tour of the Vipavski Križ with culinary dinner at Sinji Vrh, which allowed participants to become further acquainted with the culture and heritage of Ajdovščina. This approach also allowed participants to interact, deepen relations and share knowledge in an informal environment.

Day 3:

On Day 3 a project meeting was held in Ajdovščina, at the Municipal Headquarters. At the meeting, participants gave a quick evaluation of the event. This was followed by a review of the current state of play of the project (planning, communication, reporting) and the setting of a date and indicative content and activities for the third event, which will take place from 27 to 29 September 2023 in Heiningen, Germany.

Outside the meeting, participants enjoyed guided tours of the picturesque Vipava Cross village and the bustling city of Ajdovščina, providing a memorable conclusion to the enriching three-day event.

Sopotniki and the Municipality of Ajdovščina provided press releases to the media in cooperation with the partnership. This ensured that there was media coverage and that the wider public was aware of Sopotniki and Ajdovščina's best practices re: supporting elderly populations.

Via this approach to organizing and implementing the event, participants learned:

- how to engage and connect elderly and younger generations (especially in times of crisis such as COVID-19);
- became aware of the best methods and practices in terms of protecting local heritage and preserving the know-how of all generations,

The participants were also able to interact and generate new project ideas (connected to mobility solutions for elderly persons and others in need).

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	12.06.2023	Initial version (new MFF).