

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:	[1] - [Društvo za razvijanje prostovoljnega dela Novo mesto] ([DRPDNM])
PIC number:	[946969873]
Project name and acronym:	[FutureUp: Young players building the future of Europe] — [FreeEurope]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	[WP2]
Event name:	[Meeting in Novo mesto, Slovenia: Cultural and Religious diversity in Slovenia and the Eu – in the past and present.]
Type:	[Conference: Cultural and Religious diversity, workshop & visit daily center Novo mesto, migrants tour exhibition in Ljubljana]
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	[Slovenia], [NOVO MESTO]
Date(s):	[16 th -19 th May 2023]
Website(s) (if any):	http://www.futureupeurope.eu/ ,
Participants	
Female:	45
Male:	35
Non-binary:	-
From country 1 [Slovenia]:	47
From country 2 [Spain]:	8
From country 3 [Italy]:	6
From country 4 [Portugal]:	4
From country 5 [Netherland]:	2
From country 6 [Romania]:	4

From country 7 [Greece]:	3		
Total number of participants:	74	From total number of countries:	7
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>Intercultural wealth</p> <p>On 16 -19 May, 2023, we hosted several international guests as part of the FutureUp project in Novo Mesto. Our target audience were NGOs and youths from a variety of European countries, including migrant workers from neighbouring Balkan states. The theme of the project is interculturality and connecting people from different cultures and religions, therefore we included a rich programme to explore the integration of immigrants who come from different cultural and religious backgrounds. Our guests were also in several cases representatives of different cultures living in European countries.</p> <p>On Wednesday, we went to Ljubljana, where a group of women and young people from our immigrant day care centre joined us on the trip. The guide from “Terra Vera – Migrant tour of Ljubljana” guided us around the city and introduced us to Ljubljana from a more historical and intercultural perspective. We got to know the history of Ljubljana and Slovenia, and we also saw the Catholic, Orthodox and Evangelical churches and the Mosque. The tour of all 4 religious centres was interspersed with information about our history related to these 4 religions. Topics discussed included the religious and cultural diversity in Europe today and in the past, with the aim of acquiring deeper knowledge on the multicultural reality that has always existed on our continent and also within each and every country and the many different beliefs that coexist and enrich our communities.</p> <p>After the tour of Ljubljana, we had lunch at Gostilna Behar pri Džamija, where we ate traditional Bosnian food, and at the end we were treated to real Turkish coffee. In the evening, we prepared an intercultural dinner for the guests with a concert at DRPDNM, where our ESE volunteer Ema performed for us. After dinner, we watched a short documentary film about the life and experiences of immigrants in Ljubljana. Our guests were impressed by the intercultural wealth of Slovenia and DRPDNM.</p> <p>Thursday started with a conference by religious and cultural leaders, followed by an open debate among participants, and also held workshops and watched documentaries to find items representative of this diversity. We upgraded the acquired knowledge at the conference on “Cultural and Religious Diversity in Slovenia and the EU - in the Past and Today”. The topic was introduced to us by our long-time colleague dr. Jure Gombač. The Syrian poet Aber Al Gendy came with him, not only to listen, but also to read some of her poetry to us, and then she encouraged us to write a poem together, which she then translated into Arabic. During these activities, we talked about different government strategies for absorbing migrant workers, what obstacles they can potentially face and how to navigate them, how their children can best be integrated into the education system and how to make them feel welcome while protecting the receiving country’s cultural identity.</p> <p>After lunch, we visited the DRPDNM’s day care centre with our guests. We met the children and joined them in the activities. Our guest from Spain, who himself worked in similar centres, taught the children how to juggle, and together we also went to a dance workshop, where they were preparing for the upcoming Week of Culture, and to a sports activity, where we played together everything from basketball and football to volleyball.</p>			

By the end of the event, the conclusions we reached were that cultural and religious diversity enriches societies and promotes tolerance and understanding. However, the experiences of migrants in Slovenia highlight the need for greater awareness and support to ensure their successful integration into society. By acknowledging the challenges they face and actively working towards inclusivity, we can foster a more welcoming and harmonious community for all.

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