

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	Câmara Municipal de Vouzela
PIC number:	897501813
Project name and acronym:	Rural Alliance for Greater Democratic Participation - RurAll

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	2 nd		
Event name:	Strengthening Civil Society and Volunteering		
Type:	Seminar		
In situ/online:	[in-situ]		
Location:	Trzebnica, Poland		
Date(s):	25-28th May, 2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.cm-vouzela.pt/municipio/rural/		
Participants			
Female:	35		
Male:	26		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Bulgaria]:	1		
From country 2 [Croatia]:	1		
From country 3 [France]:	2		
From country 4 [Greece]:	1		
From country 5 [Hungary]:	2		
From country 6 [Italy]:	1		
From country 7 [Latvia]:	1		
From country 8 [Lithuania]:	1		
From country 9 [Malta]:	1		
From country 10 [Poland]:	42		
From country 11 [Portugal]:	3		
From country 12 [Slovakia]:	2		
From country 13 [Slovenia]:	1		
From country 14 [Spain]:	2		
Total number of participants:	61	From total number of countries:	14
Description			

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The second event of the RurAll project, titled "Strengthening Civil Society and Volunteering," was held from May 25 to May 28, 2025, in Trzebnica, Poland. Co-funded by the CERV Program of the European Commission, this event brought together more than 60 participants from 14 European countries, particularly from rural regions. The project is part of a broader initiative, the Rural Alliance for Greater Democratic Participation, designed to enhance democratic legitimacy, civic engagement, and cultural and economic development in rural areas.

The event had a special emphasis on youth associations, local citizen groups, and organizations dedicated to volunteering. Participants experienced meaningful interactions with local communities, visiting Trzebnica to meet with the Mayor Marek Długozima and members of the Youth City Council at the Town Hall. Students facilitated a session entitled "The Importance of Volunteering for Community Development," discussing various forms of volunteering including senior, youth, green, and humanitarian volunteering. This was complemented by an engaging session titled "Europe in the Classroom," where topics such as the European Union, mobility programs, the Schengen Area, and the Maastricht Treaty were presented, with the goal of enhancing rural youth visibility within the broader European context.

Participants also visited the Tarczyński S.A. factory, a prime example of successful rural economic activity connected with the local community, providing practical insights into rural development.

On the second day, the participants were officially welcomed at the Marshal's Office of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship by Marshal Paweł Gancarz and Mayor Marek Długozima. The session "Civil Society – The Power of Rural Areas" highlighted the significant role of partnerships between public sectors and NGOs in addressing geographical, economic, social, and democratic challenges within rural communities.

The cultural dimension was equally rich and diverse. Attendees enjoyed various activities showcasing Polish traditions, including a live demonstration of the traditional Polonez dance, a visit to the historic Monastery of the Sisters of Mercy in Trzebnica, and a memorable traditional Polish dinner featuring local cuisine and live music.

Throughout the event, a deliberate blend of formal presentations, workshops, and informal social interactions facilitated dynamic exchanges, helping participants deepen their understanding and build valuable networks. The involvement of young participants, who actively shared their experiences and perspectives, was particularly impactful, motivating them to play an active role in their local communities.

Evaluation feedback underscored the event's success, highlighting the structured program, relevant and insightful content, and vibrant engagement opportunities. Participants highly valued the balance between formal educational sessions and informal cultural interactions, which collectively contributed to meaningful and lasting connections.

The event achieved significant results, including strengthened civic engagement, particularly among youth and rural communities, by emphasizing volunteering as a key driver of local development. Participants enhanced their understanding of European democratic processes, mobility programs, and youth empowerment strategies through dynamic workshops and direct interactions with local authorities and organizations. Key outputs included practical insights shared during visits, such as comprehensive exchanges on civil society and NGO partnerships, cultural experiences highlighting Polish heritage, and strengthened networking and collaboration among diverse European stakeholders, facilitating long-term community engagement and cross-regional cooperation.

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