

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:	3rd		
Event name:	Digital technologies for Rural Democratic Inclusion		
Type:	Conference		
In situ/online:	[in-situ]		
Location:	Vouzela, Portugal		
Date(s):	19-22nd June, 2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.cm-vouzela.pt/municipio/rural/		
Participants			
Female:	29		
Male:	26		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Bulgaria]:	2		
From country 2 [Croatia]:	2		
From country 3 [France]:	3		
From country 4 [Greece]:	2		
From country 5 [Hungary]:	2		
From country 6 [Italy]:	2		
From country 7 [Latvia]:	2		
From country 8 [Lithuania]:	2		
From country 9 [Malta]:	2		
From country 10 [Poland]:	1		
From country 11 [Portugal]:	30		
From country 12 [Slovakia]:	2		
From country 13 [Slovenia]:	1		
From country 14 [Spain]:	2		
Total number of participants:	55	From total number of countries:	14
Description			

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The third event of the RurAll project, titled "Strengthening Civil Society and Volunteering," took place in Vouzela, Portugal, from June 19 to 22, 2025. Organized under the European Union's CERV Program, this event gathered 55 participants from 14 European countries, primarily representing rural areas. This meeting was an integral part of the broader initiative aimed at enhancing democratic participation, cultural development, and civic engagement within rural communities across Europe.

Participants had direct interactions with local authorities, including the Mayor of Vouzela, Carlos Oliveira, national deputies from Portugal's National Assembly, and the Secretary of State for European Affairs.

The sessions featured presentations from organizations involved in rural development through European projects, such as the Rural Development Group utilizing LIFE, LEADER, and ESF funds, and Europe Direct Aveiro, which promotes European initiatives particularly in education and employment. A notable session included the presentation of "Digital Inclusion Strategies in Rural Environments," designed as a practical guide for municipalities.

A significant highlight was the study visit to the Carbon Team, a rural-based sustainable enterprise manufacturing high-tech bicycles aimed at promoting green mobility. This experience underscored the importance of innovative entrepreneurship within rural communities.

Cultural immersion was an essential element of the event. Participants experienced the vibrant local traditions through two major cultural activities: the Corpus Christi celebration featuring traditional flower carpets made by neighborhood associations, and a festive parade organized by the parishes of Vouzela, showcasing regional music, dance, and communal spirit.

A critical conference titled "Media and Democracy: Combating Disinformation," led by Dr. Inês Domingos, the Portuguese Secretary of State for European Affairs, emphasized the challenges posed by misinformation and strategies to counteract it effectively within rural contexts.

A symbolic town twinning ceremony further reinforced European solidarity, featuring the European Anthem, the ceremonial signing of friendship oaths, gift exchanges, and a traditional Portuguese folkloric performance.

The event culminated with each participant receiving a certificate of attendance, along with a reflective evaluation session allowing attendees to share their insights and the value derived from their interactions.

Participant feedback indicated high levels of satisfaction with the event's organization, balanced agenda, and dynamic interaction opportunities. The blend of formal educational sessions, practical field visits, and engaging cultural experiences created an enriching atmosphere conducive to meaningful dialogue, networking, and future collaborative opportunities.

Key results of the event in Vouzela:

- Increased awareness and practical knowledge of digital inclusion strategies tailored for rural municipalities.
- Strengthened understanding and commitment to combating misinformation through focused educational interventions.
- Reinforced European solidarity and intercultural exchange through symbolic twinning ceremonies and cultural events.
- Enhanced visibility and active involvement of youth and local associations in democratic processes and rural community initiatives.

Expanded collaborative networks among European rural communities, facilitating ongoing knowledge exchange and future cooperation.

Overall, the Vouzela meeting successfully promoted the objectives of the RurAll project, reinforcing community cohesion, enhancing youth visibility and participation, and providing valuable insights into sustainable development and democratic engagement in rural European areas.

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