

## 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	
Project name and acronym:	Bridging HERitage
Participant:	GEMEENTE HEERLEN
PIC number:	931095629

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	1
Event name:	Celebrating Women's Heritage and Diversity
Type:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Networking Workshop "Ensuring Successful Collaboration"</li> <li>- Heritage Walk and Women's History Tour</li> <li>- Roundtable Discussion</li> <li>- Empowering Women Through Storytelling</li> <li>- Cultural Exchange Fair and Exhibition.</li> </ul>
In situ/online:	In situ - Presential
Location:	Heerlen, Netherlands
Date(s):	10.03.2026 – 12.03.2026
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="http://www.bridgingheritage.nl">www.bridgingheritage.nl</a>
Participants	
Female:	40
Male:	13
Non-binary:	0
From Netherlands	45
From Spain:	2
From Portugal :	22
From Italy :	2
Serbia	2
Romania	4

Ukraine	2		
Poland	2		
Latvia	2		
Total number of participants:	53	From total number of countries:	9

## Description

*Provide a short description of the event and its activities.*

The event held in Heerlen represented the first major activity within Work Package 1 (WP1) of the project Bridging Heritage, implemented under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV). As a kick-off meeting titled “ Celebrating Women’s Heritage and Diversity ”, the event aimed to bring together European citizens, youth workers, local authorities, and civil society organisations to reflect on women’s heritage, promote gender equality, and strengthen cooperation within the Network of Towns.

The event gathered 53 participants, including both local and international participants representing municipalities, NGOs, and youth organisations. Participants travelled from several European countries, fostering intercultural dialogue and the exchange of experiences and good practices.

Participants came from the following countries:

- The Netherlands
- Spain
- Italy
- Romania
- Poland
- Portugal
- Latvia
- Ukraine
- Serbia

All participants were over 18 years old. The event ensured balanced participation among partner organisations and promoted active involvement of young people and youth workers.

Special attention was given to gender equality and gender mainstreaming, encouraging the active participation of women throughout all sessions. Specific activities also addressed the role of women in society, inclusion, and resilience, particularly in vulnerable contexts.

The main objectives of the event were:

- To launch the project and strengthen cooperation among partner organisations.
- To promote European values such as equality, diversity, and inclusion.
- To raise awareness about women’s heritage and its contribution to European identity.
- To foster intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding.
- To exchange good practices and methodologies for collaboration within the Network of Towns.
- To empower participants through storytelling and participatory activities.

## Description of Activities

### Day 0 – Arrival and Welcoming

On 10 March 2026, participants arrived in Heerlen and were transferred from the airport to the hotel. After check-in at Stadshotel Heerlen, participants gathered for a welcoming dinner, which provided an informal setting for introductions, networking, and the first exchanges among partners.

### Day 1 – Heritage, Local Context and Networking

The first official day began at the Municipality of Heerlen with registration, coffee, and an opening session, including welcome speeches by Mayor Roel Wever and project representatives. This session introduced the objectives of the meeting and highlighted the importance of cooperation and shared European values.

After this, participants started the **Heritage Walk and Women’s History Tour**. First step initiated in Visit Zuid-Limburg, where they watched an introductory film about Heerlen and the Limburg region, providing historical and cultural context for the activities that followed.

This was followed by the urban walk by specialized tour guides, dynamizing a Heritage Walk and Women’s History Tour through the city centre of Heerlen. Participants explored key locations linked to local heritage and women’s contributions, connecting local narratives with broader European perspectives.

The programme continued with a visit to Taalcafé SCHUNCK at the Glaspaleis, showcasing local initiatives that support inclusion, language learning, and community engagement, with a special gender mainstreaming.

After lunch at the Municipality of Heerlen, participants attended a presentation about the city of Heerlen delivered by local representatives, providing insights into its history, transformation, and current social context.

In the afternoon, the **Networking Workshop “Ensuring Successful Collaboration”** took place, including the introduction of each partner organisation and its experience on gender equality policies and promoting gender based cultural heritage. This session focused on building trust, sharing expectations, and identifying strategies for effective transnational cooperation.

Later in the day, participants visited the Ukraine shelter for women and children located at Monastery “Huize de Berg”, accompanied by the Mayor. This visit provided a powerful insight into local support initiatives for vulnerable groups, highlighting solidarity, inclusion, and the role of municipalities in responding to humanitarian challenges.

The day concluded with a joint dinner, allowing participants to continue informal exchanges and strengthen connections.

### Day 2 – Storytelling, Exchange and Project Coordination

The second day began with a new opening session at the Municipality of Heerlen, followed by the **Roundtable Discussion “Empowering Women Through Storytelling”**, held at MIJN-werk Heerlen. This session created a space for participants to share experiences and reflect on storytelling as a tool for empowerment, inclusion, and raising awareness about gender equality.

Participants then visited the Bovengrondse vakschool, where they attended a guided tour and presentation about the institution, learning about its educational approach and role in the local community.

This was followed by the **Cultural Exchange Fair and Exhibition**, combined with a networking lunch. Participants presented their cultures, traditions, and perspectives, fostering intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding through interactive and informal exchanges.

In the afternoon, participants returned to the Municipality of Heerlen for a coordination and closing session. This included the evaluation of the meeting, planning of upcoming activities, and further discussion within the **Networking Workshop “Ensuring Successful Collaboration”**, reinforcing partnership dynamics and future cooperation.

The event concluded with a closing dinner, marking the end of the meeting and celebrating the successful launch of the project.

### **Results and Impact**

The event successfully facilitated dialogue, cooperation, and knowledge exchange among European participants. The main outcomes included:

- Strengthened partnerships and collaboration among municipalities, NGOs, and youth organisations.
- Increased awareness of women’s heritage and its relevance to European identity and inclusion.
- Promotion of gender equality through dedicated discussions and inclusive participation.
- Enhanced understanding of local initiatives supporting vulnerable groups, including women and refugees.
- Improved capacity of participants to engage in transnational cooperation and Network of Towns activities.

Overall, the event contributed to strengthening European citizenship, fostering intercultural dialogue, and promoting the core values of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV).

### **Learning Results**

The event generated significant learning outcomes by increasing participants’ understanding of gender equality, cultural heritage, and social inclusion in a European context. Through site visits, workshops, and discussions, participants gained practical insights into local governance, community initiatives, and collaborative approaches.

The visit to the Ukraine shelter, in particular, provided a meaningful learning experience regarding inclusion, solidarity, and the role of local authorities in addressing social challenges. Additionally, the cultural exchange activities enabled participants to broaden their perspectives and identify transferable practices.

Participants strengthened their skills in communication, intercultural dialogue, teamwork, and collaborative planning. The event also reinforced their capacity to contribute to inclusive and participatory initiatives at the local and European levels.

### **Dissemination links**

<https://en.heerlen.nl/heerlen-start-project-over-vrouwen-en-erfgoed>

<https://en.heerlen.nl/heerlen-start-project-over-vrouwen-en-erfgoed>

<https://www.daugavpils.lv/en/city/news/city-council-news/en-daugavpils-valstspilsetas-pasvaldiba-piedalas-projekta-bridging-heritage-kulturas-vertibu-saglabasana-un-sabiedribas-iesaista-atklasanas-sanaksme>

<https://www.cm-paredes.pt/pages/2470>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DV6alkICfFr/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DV1esi-D6SZ/>

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01/09/202	Initial version (new MFF).