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:	**6 - Knihovna Vaclava Havla - VHL**
PIC number:	**937053466**
Project name and acronym:	**Mothers of Europe — Mothers**

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	D24.1		
Event name:	„Mothers of Europe" exhibition in Czechia 3		
Type:	Exhibition, debate, performance		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Czechia, Brno		
Date(s):	August 14th, 2025 duration of exhibition : 4 August-30 September, 2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://mothersofeurope.cz/		
Participants			
Female:	29		
Male:	5		
Non-binary:	N/A		
From country 1 [Czechia]:	31		
From country 2 [Slovakia]:	3		
Total number of participants:	34	From total number of countries:	2

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

On 14 August 2025, the Mothers of Europe exhibition was presented in Brno with a specially curated evening programme hosted at Institut Paměti národa (Institute of National Memory). Designed as a space for thoughtful exchange rather than formal presentation, the evening brought together women from different fields to reflect on strength, care, and contemporary forms of female heroism – without clichés or pathos.

The heart of the evening was a moderated debate led by journalist and radio host Lucie Vopálenská, who opened up a thoughtful and, at times, provocative dialogue with the invited guests: Barbora Antonová (feminist curator and cultural organiser), Lucie Jarkovská (sociologist and expert on gender and education), and Alžběta Michalová (poet and researcher). Together, they explored what it means to be a “heroine” today – and whether this label even helps us understand women’s experiences. One recurring idea was that many of the women featured in Mothers of Europe never set out to become heroines. If given the chance, they might have chosen quieter, more modest lives over drama and historical weight. True strength, as the guests noted, often emerges not in the spotlight but in care, collaboration, and enduring pressure without recognition.
The discussion touched on a wide range of topics: gendered expectations, the undervaluation of invisible work, the challenges of motherhood, and the shifting roles of women across generations. Can everyday caregiving be seen as heroism? How do today’s young people view female role models? What do we pass on to them – at school, in culture, in public life? From the rise of shared parenting to persistent pay gaps and the feminization of poverty, the speakers reflected on both the achievements and the unfinished work of feminism. Audience members – many of them students – actively joined the conversation, asking sharp, reflective questions and staying long after the debate ended to continue talking. The atmosphere was open, engaged, and refreshingly intergenerational.

After the discussion, the programme seamlessly transitioned into a poetic interlude by Alžběta Michalová, who shared selected texts from her collection Matčina (“Mother’s”). Her intimate, honest poems about motherhood, memory, and the body offered a moment of stillness and introspection – bringing the themes of the evening into a more emotional register.

The final part of the evening belonged to Martina Trchová, whose acoustic performance tied everything together. With sincerity and emotional depth, her music echoed many of the sentiments expressed earlier: the quiet resilience of care, the complexity of womanhood, and the power of shared experience. Although the official programme ended here, many participants stayed behind, continuing the conversation informally in the warm atmosphere of the café.

Over 250 visitors attended the exhibition in the first two weeks alone, demonstrating strong interest and engagement from a diverse audience.
Due to that interest and ongoing demand we agreed with the venue to extend it throughout the entire month of September.

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