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:	D22.1		
Event name:	„Mothers of Europe" exhibition in Czechia 1		
Type:	Exhibition, opening discussion, performance		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Czechia, Liberec		
Date(s):	May 27th, 2025 duration of exhibition : 26 May – 30 June 2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://mothersofeurope.cz/		
Participants			
Female:	15		
Male:	10		
Non-binary:	N/A		
From country 1 [Czechia]:	25		
Total number of participants:	25	From total number of countries:	1

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

On 27 May 2025, the exhibition program of Mothers of Europe reached Liberec, carrying a clear message: to honour eighteen exceptional women whose courage, commitment and civic integrity helped shape today's Europe. Through portraits and biographical stories, the exhibition introduces women from Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Greece and Spain who share a common ability to change the world around them – whether in the public sphere or through everyday acts.

Before the start of the main programme, the exhibition was officially opened with a small *vernisáž* in the café of the historic Liebieg Palace, which offered a more intimate setting for the first encounter with the portraits. The informal opening brought together representatives of the organising institutions, local cultural leaders and members of the wider public. The relaxed atmosphere encouraged spontaneous conversation between the guests and sparked inter-generational dialogue already before entering the library hall for the debate.

The Liberec segment of the project culminated in a special evening programme “Odvážné a statečné” (“Brave and Courageous”), held in the Krajská vědecká Knihovna in front of diverse audience – including students, cultural professionals, civil society representatives and members of the general public.
The evening’s main guest was Lída Rakušanová – journalist, long-time voice of freedom at Radio Free Europe, and one of the Czech “Mothers of Europe”. Together with Anna (Andulka) Freimanová, close collaborator of Václav Havel and editor of his collected works, she took part in a moderated debate led by Marcela Augustová (Czech Television). Rather than a purely retrospective talk, the discussion opened an engaged and personal reflection on the role of women in 20th- and 21st-century European history: What does courage look like in situations of political oppression? What role did women play in the dissident movement and in post-revolution transformation? Is civic responsibility still a meaningful concept in today’s democratic societies?

The dialogue profoundly touched on a wide range of topics – from the decision to emigrate and the importance of free media, to the position of women in public life and the current challenges of journalism in the era of social media and artificial intelligence. Personal testimonies from both guests gave the audience a unique insight into recent European history seen not only through the eyes of witnesses, but of active agents of change.
The atmosphere of the evening was open, sincere and emotionally charged. Audience members responded actively, asking questions that linked past struggles to the present – and many stayed on afterwards for informal discussion. The event reminded participants that the stories of the Mothers of Europe do not belong to the past, but continue in each of us and in the everyday choices we make.

The exhibition in the Liebieg Palace remained on view for more than a month and drew roughly 350 visitors — including regular library patrons, cultural audiences and passers-by who were drawn in by the theme and ended up spending time discovering the stories of the featured women.

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