



Project: 101249763 — COTAF – Connected Towns for a Shared Future
Programme: CERV-2025-CITIZENS-TOWN-NT

ANNEX A7 - 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:	Impact Hub Istra, so.p (Impact Hub Istra)
PIC number:	872373866
Project name and acronym:	Connected Towns for a Shared Future - COTAF

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	2
Event name:	Human Library on Migrant Inclusion, Impact Hub Istra
Type:	Human Library
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Slovenia, Postojna
Date(s):	31.08.2026.
Website(s) (if any):	
Participants	
Female:	11
Male:	14
Non-binary:	
From country 1 [Slovenia]:	18
From country 2 [Gambia]:	2
From country 3 [Ghana]:	1
From country 4 [Ivory Coast]:	1
From country 5 [Mali]:	1



From country 6 [Bangladesh]:	1		
From country 7 [Bosnia and Herzegovina]:	1		
.....			
Total number of participants:	25	From total number of countries:	7

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

At least 1 page detailed description of the event

The event was organized in cooperation with PUMo Postojna, an organization that provides educational support for young adults. In their programming PUMo has a number of young migrants who undertake their, now 10 months long, educational programmes helping them complete primary education and move into the secondary levels. PUMo helps with language classes and overall integration of young people into the local community. Another participating organization was Sangai, a project by a local group of people organized to help the integration of a group of Nepalese who have moved into their local community.

This was not a huge event in terms of participant number, but it was hugely meaningful to the young people who participated, as well as the organizations involved - a much needed opportunity to connect with others in this field. The number of participants wasn't as high as expected due to a number of other events for young people that were taking place in the local area at the time. We at IH Istra have reached out to a number of organizations, but unfortunately the timing was difficult to work with. Nevertheless, the event was important and meaningful.

The primary objective of the event was to ensure that everyone felt safe and welcome. In working with such a vulnerable group we were highly aware of the importance of this, but were also told about it from PUMo staff. The young people they work with (mentor) have gone through exceptionally difficult life experiences and it is hard for them to trust others and open up. We spent the morning together at their location, having an informal chat and coffee, and then moved into the premises we have jointly booked for the event. Then the main part of the event took place.

Participants were given a list of questions and topics to help them feel comfortable and the IH staff started sharing their stories first. As one of our staff members (Nassim) is from a migrant family himself, he shared the experience of his father being from Africa and migrating to Italy years ago. Another staff member is from Bosnia, so she shared her experience as well. This personal story-telling seemed to mean a lot to the young people in getting them to open up. Nassim also speaks French which was particularly important for one of the young participants from Mali who speaks very little English or Slovenian. He immediately opened up and for the rest of the 2 hour session Nassim translated for him. That way we were all able to get to know him better and learn more about his story.

The participants were mostly all young underage boys with hopes and big dreams of having a normal life in their new environment. They shared stories about their experience in Slovenia, the importance of language as the primary factor for integration, and stories about their homeland. They recounted a mostly positive experience with people in Slovenia, but also an understanding of what it means to be a stranger and how important it is to be able to speak the local language, as that helps break down the barriers. They shared about the things they loved (sports, food, their country), and the pain of what it means to not be seen or understood, or seen as equal. Some of them play football very well and play in local clubs or for different teams at various events. This was also emphasised as an integral part of becoming a part of the community. The participants from Sangai, the organization working with Nepalese, have also had a similar experience and have invited the young people from PUMo to join them for a match.

The organisations involved also shared their stories about the importance of being involved with this young group of people and how much it means to them to support them. They also emphasised the lack of foundational support, and the constant lack of funding in this space. The organisations highlighted the cracks in the system whereby the young people are moved away from their locality once they turn 18 and put into the communal living centre in Ljubljana, and how upon that they tend to lose touch with them. They also noted how difficult it is for the young people who, while in the study program, are allowed to work as students, yet afterwards are not given any kind of a status and are not able to get employed which has a hugely negative impact. The organisation also noted the lack of better educational support for this cohort, as the current system isn't quite suitable for young adults. It



is a speed education of the same syllabus children normally have in school, and examples from other countries were given whereby the people in this type of programming were given a chance to learn a trade as well. The event closed off with a short round of sharing something we each loved from our country of origin and sharing some interesting facts.

Following the closing of the event we all had lunch together and socialised, then went back to PUMo offices and recorded an interview with Peter Vidmar who works there and is a mentor. Overall, the event has had such a positive impact on this group of people who were delighted to have been given a space to safely share about their experiences, but also the people who work with them who were able to connect with others. It was an emotional experience with lots of learning about other people we sometimes perceive as so different, yet at the end of the day we are all the same and we all dream of a safe life and an opportunity to thrive.

NOTE: Please note that PUMo has a strict policy regarding not allowing the photos where vulnerable young adults they work with can be identified, therefore the photos taken are a few and from the back.

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



Management Guidelines – Annex A
M&E Plan & Strategy – Annex 3

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HUMAN LIBRARY EVENT MONITORING TEMPLATE

SECTION 1 – Event Identification

Event type: Human Library
Work Package: WP5–WP22
Date(s): 31.08.2026.
Location: Postojna, Slovenia
Number of participants: 25

SECTION 2 – Expected ToC Outcomes (Empathy & Awareness)

Expected outcomes:

- Increased empathy and understanding
- Reduction of stereotypes
- Reflective dialogue

Observed outcomes:

☒ Fully achieved ☐ Partially achieved ☐ Not achieved

Short explanation (max 5 lines):

For this event we had a post-event survey, the pre-event survey did not generate any valuable responses (only 3 and incomplete). The post event survey had about a 50% response rate. We used Google Files and a simple QR code to make it as easy to access as possible.

The results of the survey as well as our conversations with participants post event showed that this was an eye opening experience which allowed people from different backgrounds and perspectives to gain an insight into their backgrounds and experiences. There was certainly an increased level of empathy as everyone learned more about each other, there was an observed reduction in thinking about other people in stereotypes and there was a lot of reflective dialogue. Not only for the 'readers', but also for the 'books' this was a new learning experience about each other, which *emphasised the importance of this approach as a community building mechanism*. The event allowed for new learning on the emotional and cognitive levels, increased empathy through understanding as well as learning about the limitations and barriers for this group of people.

SECTION 3 – Dialogue Quality

Quality of dialogue:

☐ Low ☐ Medium ☒ High

Safe and inclusive environment ensured?

☒ Yes ☐ Partially ☐ No



SECTION 4 – Risks and Mitigation

Did any risk materialise (e.g. low participation, inappropriate behaviour)?

X No ☐ Yes

Were mitigation measures applied?

☐ No X Yes

Comments:

No identified risks materialised. As a preventive measure, the event opened with shared ground rules for a safe and pleasant exchange, which helped sustain an inclusive atmosphere throughout. No participant signalled any concern to the organising team and there was a high level of participation throughout the event.

SECTION 5 – Learning & Follow-up

Key insight from participants:

Language was identified as the primary barrier and most important step towards integration.

Slovenian is certainly difficult for many African migrants to learn, but they are all working hard to learn and use it as much as possible.

It is also identified that a lot of the supports provided are somewhat in isolation, with different organisations trying to support in their own way, but that the national mechanisms have significant disadvantages especially for this highly vulnerable group. This is, of course, a highly complex topic that includes the overall EU security interests to be balanced with empathetic and human response to migration.

It was also clear from this event that similar events are much needed and very welcome by this vulnerable group. To them it is a sign that somebody actually cares about their experience, and it also allows for community connections to form, which could be quite significant for the integration process.

Suggested improvement:

The participants suggested more similar events (and some activities), broader community involvement, as well as practical help for the migrant community.

This template is part of the COTAF M&E system and complements the official CERV Event Description Sheet.