



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:			
Event name:	Human Library on Gender Equality, Impact Hub Istra		
Type:	Human Library		
In situ/online:	In-situ		
Location:	Slovenia, Koper		
Date(s):	16.06.2026		
Website(s) (if any):			
Participants			
Female:	21		
Male:	4		
Non-binary:	2		
From country 1 [Slovenia]:	27		
Total number of participants:	27	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
At least 1 page detailed description of the event			
This event was the first Human Library organised by Impact Hub Istra so.p. within the COTAF project in the Slovenian Istra region. As a citizen-facing dialogue event, it put into practice the project's civic dialogue and empathy pathway, bringing community members into direct, facilitated conversation with			



“living books” people willing to share their lived experience. The chosen theme was gender equality, a subject selected for its social relevance and its capacity to surface honest, reflective exchange.

The event gathered 27 active participants, forming a notably gender-diverse group. It opened with a short set of shared ground rules for a safe and pleasant exchange, which established a respectful tone from the outset. Participants then engaged directly with the living books, both listening and sharing their own perspectives in return, creating a genuine two-way dialogue rather than a one-directional presentation. Engagement was high throughout, with everyone taking an active part in the conversation.

The quality of dialogue was high and the environment was safe and inclusive; no participant signalled any concern to the organising team, and none of the anticipated risks (such as low participation or inappropriate behaviour) materialised. In line with the project’s Theory of Change for Human Library events, the session worked towards increased empathy, a reduction of stereotypes and reflective dialogue, all of which were clearly evident in the exchanges among participants and living books.

Several insights emerged from the discussion. Participants reflected that gender equality is not talked about often enough, and that as a community there is a tendency to place too little emphasis on it. At the same time, they recognised that Slovenia works to safeguard everyone’s rights and is, on the whole, an inclusive country. A recurring observation was that gender identity has become a strongly politicised talking point, which can shift attention away from what matters most and divide people at moments when the topic should be bringing them closer together.

As a follow-up, the organising team identified the value of offering more regular, low-threshold opportunities to discuss gender equality so that the topic stays present in the community, and of framing future dialogues to keep the focus on shared values and connection rather than political division. Overall, the event delivered its intended outputs and short-term outcomes and provided a strong foundation for the further Human Library activities planned under the project.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	16.06.2026	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): 16.06.2026
Location: Koper, Slovenia
Number of participants: 27

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):

The event brought together 27 actively engaged participants for an open dialogue on gender equality. Participants spoke directly with the living books and shared their own perspectives in return, creating a genuine two-way exchange. The group was notably gender-diverse, and the respectful atmosphere supported reflection and helped challenge stereotypes. The expected outcomes of increased empathy, reduced stereotyping and reflective dialogue were clearly met.

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)?

☐ No ☐ Yes

Were mitigation measures applied?

☐ No ☐ Yes

Comments:



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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.

SECTION 5 – Learning & Follow-up

Key insight from participants:

Gender equality is not discussed often enough, and as a community we tend to place too little emphasis on it. At the same time, participants recognised that Slovenia works to safeguard everyone's rights and is, on the whole, an inclusive country. A recurring reflection was that gender identity has become a strongly political talking point, which can shift attention away from what really matters and divide people at moments when the topic should be bringing them closer together.

Suggested improvement:

Offer more regular, low-threshold opportunities to talk about gender equality so the topic stays present in the community, and frame future dialogues to keep the focus on shared values and connection rather than political division.

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