



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:	Fenntarthato Vallalkozasokert Alapitvány (FVA)
PIC number:	910769279
Project name and acronym:	[Connected Towns for a Shared Future] — [COTAF]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	9
Event name:	[Stories of Migration and Inclusion]
Type:	Living Library
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	[Hungary], [Budapest]
Date(s):	[25/06/2026]
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.cotafeuproject.info/
Participants	
Female:	24 (out of which 6 part of Human Books)
Male:	10 (out of which 3 part of Human Books)
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Mexico]:	1 (Human Book)
From country 2 [Cuba]:	1 (Human Book)
From country 3 [Ukraine]:	4 (Human Book)
From country 4 [Myanmar]:	1 (Human Book)
From country 5 [India]:	1 (Human Book)



From country 6 [Hungary]:	26 (1 Human Book, attendees are all grouped under Hungary as country of origin data for them was not collected)		
Total number of participants:	34	From total number of countries:	6
Description <i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
The event “Stories of Migration and Inclusion” was organised in Budapest as part of the COTAF (Connected Towns for a Shared Future) project under Work Package 15. The event adopted the Human Library (Living Library) methodology to promote dialogue, intercultural understanding, and social inclusion through direct encounters between people with lived migration experiences and members of the local community. The activity was fully aligned with the objectives of the COTAF project and its Theory of Change, which recognises that meaningful interpersonal encounters and participatory learning can contribute to reducing stereotypes, fostering empathy, and strengthening social cohesion. The event focused on the theme of migration and sought to create a safe and welcoming space where participants could engage with personal stories that illustrated the diversity of migration experiences. Rather than approaching migration through statistics or policy discussions alone, the Human Library methodology placed lived experience at the centre of the event, encouraging participants to ask questions, reflect on their own assumptions, and develop a deeper understanding of the realities faced by people with different migration backgrounds. The event brought together five Human Books representing a variety of migration experiences and cultural backgrounds. The stories reflected different motivations for migration, including international education, labour migration, forced displacement, and family reunification. Together, they illustrated that migration is not a single experience, but rather a collection of diverse and often intersecting personal journeys. One Human Book from Myanmar shared her experience of arriving in Hungary to pursue a PhD before becoming unable to safely return home following the military coup in Myanmar, transforming her experience from one of international mobility into one of forced displacement. A Human Book from Mexico reflected on choosing Hungary as a place to settle after studying abroad in several countries, highlighting themes of identity, belonging, and cultural exchange. An Indian Human Book used her story to explore the expectations placed on women in her home country and her decision to pursue a career as an artist despite significant social and family pressure, while also reflecting on relocating to Hungary following her husband's work transfer. A Cuban Human Book, supported by his Hungarian wife who interpreted his contribution, shared his experience of moving to Hungary due to the economic situation in Cuba and family connections already established in the country. Finally, a Ukrainian family described their migration journey following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, illustrating the realities of forced displacement while also reflecting on the different circumstances under which members of the family had arrived in Hungary, with two family members initially moving for higher education and two arriving later as refugees. An important feature of the event was the integration of creative visual storytelling alongside verbal narratives. Human Books were invited to bring a visual representation of their story whenever they wished, helping participants engage with migration experiences through artistic and cultural expression. These visual elements varied according to each participant's preferences and experiences. One Human Book presented a traditional Mexican bookmark created using paper-making techniques dating back to the pre-Columbian period, connecting migration with cultural heritage and identity. Another displayed a large painting symbolising freedom and personal empowerment through art. Other Human Books chose to share their experiences through conversation alone, demonstrating the flexibility of the methodology and respecting each participant's preferred way of expressing their story. The event began with a welcome session introducing Impact Hub Budapest and the objectives of the COTAF project, followed by an explanation of the Human Library methodology, an introduction to the Human Books, and the Reader Guidelines. Particular emphasis was placed on creating a respectful and psychologically safe environment. Participants were reminded that the Human Library is founded on dialogue, curiosity, active listening, mutual respect, confidentiality, and the recognition that Human Books always retain the right not to answer questions they find uncomfortable. Following the introduction, participants took part in five rotational reading sessions lasting approximately ten minutes each. This format enabled attendees to engage with multiple Human Books over the course of the evening while maintaining conversations in small groups that			



encouraged meaningful interaction. Rather than formal presentations, each session developed organically through storytelling and questions from Readers, creating opportunities for genuine dialogue and exchange. Throughout the activity, the organisers facilitated the rotations, ensured that the agreed timing was respected, and remained available to support both Human Books and Readers whenever necessary.

The formal programme concluded with an informal networking session during which participants continued their conversations while sharing refreshments. Catering for the event was provided by one of the participating Human Books and his family through their catering company, offering attendees the opportunity to experience an aspect of Cuban culture through traditional food. Although approximately thirty minutes had been allocated for networking, many participants chose to remain after the official closing time, continuing discussions with the Human Books and with one another. This spontaneous continuation of dialogue reflected the high level of engagement generated by the event.

The organisers implemented both pre-event and post-event evaluation activities. Pre-event surveys were successfully collected from participants, while post-event surveys were distributed to both Human Books and Readers. At the time of reporting, completed post-event surveys had primarily been received from Human Books, with responses from Readers still being collected. Nevertheless, the qualitative feedback gathered during and immediately after the event was overwhelmingly positive. Participants consistently described the experience as insightful, engaging, and thought-provoking. Several attendees expressed that they would have appreciated a longer event to allow for additional conversations, while others enquired about future Human Library events organised within the COTAF project. Human Books likewise indicated their willingness to participate in similar initiatives in the future.

Overall, "Stories of Migration and Inclusion" successfully demonstrated the value of the Human Library methodology as a participatory tool for promoting intercultural dialogue and social inclusion. By bringing together people with diverse migration experiences in a structured yet informal environment, the event created opportunities to challenge stereotypes, foster empathy, and encourage meaningful exchanges between members of different communities. The combination of lived experience, creative expression, facilitated dialogue, and community networking contributed to the achievement of the project's objectives and provided a strong foundation for future Human Library events within the COTAF project.

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): 25th of June

Location: Impact Hub Budapest

Number of participants: 34 (5 human books)

SECTION 2 – Expected ToC Outcomes (Empathy & Awareness)

Expected outcomes:

- Increased empathy and understanding
- Learn how to be respectful and respect boundaries
- Reduction of stereotypes
- Reflective dialogue
- Build a sense of community

Observed outcomes:

XFully achieved ☐ Partially achieved ☐ Not achieved

Short explanation (max 5 lines):

We believe that the event held created a powerful space for both human books and readers. For the human books, it provided a safe and supportive environment to share their personal stories. For the readers, it offered a rare opportunity to engage in open and judgment-free dialogue, allowing them to truly listen and connect with the person in front of them. This experience not only fostered empathy but also broke down barriers, encouraging deeper understanding and human connection.

SECTION 3 – Dialogue Quality

Quality of dialogue:

☐ Low XMedium ☐ High

Safe and inclusive environment ensured?

XYes ☐ Partially ☐ No

SECTION 4 – Risks and Mitigation

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

XNo ☐ Yes

Were mitigation measures applied?

XNo ☐ Yes

Comments:



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SECTION 5 – Learning & Follow-up

Key insight from participants:

Suggested improvement:

Based on the experience of our first event, we recommend increasing the time each person spends with a human book to more than 10–15 minutes. This adjustment would provide the human book with enough time to fully share their story and allow readers to ask meaningful questions. During our initial event, we structured the sessions into five 10-minute segments, but we quickly realized that this timeframe was insufficient to foster a deeper connection or meaningful exchange.

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