

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	
Project name and acronym:	Easter Wishes
Participant:	MEDINA DE RIOSECO CITY COUNCIL – BOARD OF THE BROTHERHOODS OF MEDINA DE RIOSECO – AND OTHER MUNICIPALITIES
PIC number:	876215648

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	1
Event name:	Easter Wishes
Type:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening remarks by the Mayor of Medina de Rioseco and the President of the Board of Easter Week Brotherhoods in Medina de Rioseco. - Expert talk on the importance of Easter Week traditions across Europe. - Open debate with representatives from partner municipalities. - Open discussion. - Brainstorming sessions. - Presentations. - Local visits to Easter Week museum and several churches.
In situ/online:	In situ - Presential
Location:	Medina de Rioseco, Spain
Date(s):	20.02.2026 – 22.02.2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://medinaderioseco.org/
Participants	
Female:	44
Male:	83
Non-binary:	0
From Spain:	67
From Portugal:	17

From Italy :	17		
From Slovenia	7		
From Croatia	7		
Romania	5		
Poland	3		
Czech Republic	4		
Total number of participants:	127	From total number of countries:	8

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The event held in Medina de Rioseco represented the first major activity within Work Package 1 (WP1) of the project implemented under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV). The meeting aimed to bring together European citizens, local authorities, civil society organisations, and experts to discuss how Easter Week celebrations across Europe can become more sustainable while preserving cultural traditions and strengthening European cooperation.

The event gathered 127 participants, including 67 local participants and 60 international participants, representing municipalities, NGOs, experts, and members of civil society. International participants travelled from several European countries, fostering intercultural dialogue and the exchange of good practices.

Participants came from the following countries:

- Spain
- Italy
- Romania
- Poland
- Portugal
- Czech Republic
- Croatia
- Slovenia

All participants were over 18 years old. The event ensured balanced participation from partner organisations and municipalities across Europe, with 60 international participants attending the meeting.

Special attention was given to gender equality and gender mainstreaming, encouraging the active participation of women in discussions, workshops and decision-making processes. Several sessions also highlighted the role of women in promoting sustainability and green innovation in local communities. It is remarkable that different religions were as well represented.

The main objectives of the event were:

- To promote European cooperation and sharing of Easter Week traditions.
- To exchange best practices for sustainable Easter Week traditions and processions.
- To raise awareness about the environmental impact of these type of events.
- To explore how local traditions can be preserved while incorporating further collaboration.
- To contribute to broader European feeling of belonging.
- To develop deeper further collaborations.

Description of Activities

Day 1 – Opening and Knowledge Exchange

The project began, bringing together participants from different countries, backgrounds, and experiences, creating a space where people could first meet, understand each other, and build trust. The opening session introduced the objectives of the project and set a common ground around the role of cultural traditions, particularly Holy Week, as spaces where communities connect, but also where inclusion is not always equally present.

Participants then moved into a knowledge exchange phase, where they shared how Holy Week and similar traditions are celebrated in their local contexts. This exchange revealed important differences in participation, accessibility, and community involvement, but also highlighted strong common values such as solidarity, identity, and collective memory. Building on this, a co-creation workshop was organised. Working in international groups, participants explored how these traditions could evolve to better include:

- young people with fewer opportunities
- migrants and newcomers
- people with disabilities

The focus was not only on identifying challenges, but on proposing concrete ideas, new formats, activities, and approaches that could make cultural celebrations more open and socially meaningful.

The day concluded with a guided visit through Medina de Rioseco, allowing participants to connect the discussions with the real cultural and historical environment. Experiencing the local context first-hand helped participants better understand both the strength of tradition and the opportunities for transformation.

Day 2 – Innovation, Policy Alignment and Practical Experience

The second day shifted from reflection to application, connecting ideas developed on Day 1 with real-life practices and broader policy frameworks. Participants engaged in local volunteering activities in cooperation with community organisations. This practical experience allowed them to see directly how solidarity functions at the local level and how community initiatives respond to social needs. It also reinforced the idea that inclusion is not only a concept, but something that must be actively practiced. A visit to the Holy Week brotherhoods (cofradías) provided additional insight into how traditional structures operate. Discussions focused on how these organisations could integrate more inclusive approaches, while preserving their identity and continuity.

In parallel, participants explored how their ideas relate to wider European priorities, particularly in the fields of:

- social inclusion
- accessibility
- active citizenship

Through facilitated discussions, they reflected on how local actions can align with European values and contribute to stronger, more cohesive communities. The day concluded with a joint reflection session, where participants connected their practical experiences with the ideas developed earlier, identifying realistic steps that can be transferred to their own communities after the project.

Results and Impact

The event successfully facilitated dialogue, cooperation and knowledge exchange among European participants. The main outcomes included:

- The development of a draft Declaration for Easter Week Celebrations for municipalities.
- Increased awareness among participants regarding the environmental impact of Easter Week events.
- Strengthened cooperation between municipalities, NGOs and civil society organisations across Europe.
- The promotion of gender equality through dedicated sessions and inclusive participation.
- Sharing traditions with different religions from different member States within the European Union.

Overall, the event contributed to strengthening European citizenship, intercultural dialogue and environmental awareness, in line with the priorities of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV).

Learning Results

The event generated significant learning outcomes for participants by increasing their awareness and understanding of how sustainability can be effectively integrated into traditional cultural celebrations such as Easter Week. Through workshops, expert presentations, and collaborative discussions, participants gained practical knowledge on topics such as main celebrations and traditions, how the Easter Week brotherhoods collaborate with society in the different countries and community engagement. The exchange of experiences between municipalities and organisations from different European countries enabled participants to identify innovative solutions and transferable traditions that allow a feeling of belonging to the European Union as a whole. Furthermore, the event strengthened participants' understanding of how local initiatives can contribute to broader collaboration for a deeper knowledge of the different traditions. Participants also developed skills in collaborative problem-solving, intercultural dialogue, and participatory decision-making, reinforcing their capacity to share on regular basis.

Dissemination links

[...]

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01/09/202	Initial version (new MFF).