

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:	7 – FUNDACJA CENTRUM IM PROFESORA BRONISŁAWA GEREMKA (FG)
PIC number:	913612349
Project name and acronym:	Mothers of Europe (Mothers)

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	D7.1		
Event name:	„MOTHERS OF EUROPE” EXHIBITION IN POLAND 1		
Type:	Exhibition, seminar, workshop		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Poland, Rybnik		
Date(s):	15.04.2025 duration of exhibition : 08-24.04.2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://geremek.pl/matki-europy-w-rybniku-wystawa-w-galerii-jasna/		
Participants			
Female:	38		
Male:	11		
Non-binary:	N/A		
From country 1 [Poland]:	48		
From country 1 [Ukraine]:	1		
Total number of participants:	49	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
Provide a short description of the event and its activities.			
<p>The first exhibition in Poland of the <i>Mothers of Europe</i> project was hosted by the <i>Jasna</i> art gallery at the Public Library in Rybnik, a county town in Silesia — a region of Poland known for its unique culture and distinct language. The opening event took place on 15 April and consisted of three parts: workshops for young people, an exhibition vernissage combined with a curator's tour, and a panel discussion.</p> <p>The first part was a workshop for young people entitled <i>Hidden in Language</i>, which explored the linguistic invisibility of women, the power of words, and how the language we use to tell stories shapes</p>			

our perception and understanding of the world. The workshop was led by translators and literary scholars Paulina Rzymanek and Elżbieta Janota, authors of the podcast *Już tłumaczę* (which in Polish carries a double meaning: “I’m explaining” and “I translate”). During the session, the facilitators referred to the stories and experiences of the 18 women featured in the exhibition *Mothers of Europe: The Missing Half of European History*. A secondary school class from Rybnik took part in the workshop.

The second part of the event was the official opening of the exhibition, inaugurated by Aleksandra Klich, director of the Public Library in Rybnik. This was followed by a presentation by Łukasz Krawczyński, project coordinator at the Geremek Foundation, who outlined the idea behind the *Mothers of Europe* project, including its background and complementary activities, such as a publication containing full biographies of the women featured in the exhibition. The event continued with a guided tour led by curator and journalist Anna Kowalczyk, known for her efforts to popularize women’s history in Poland. Her narration provided insight not only into international figures such as Hannah Arendt, Francisca Sauquillo, and Melina Mercouri, but also linked their legacies to local narratives — highlighting the relevance of these values in the Silesian context.

The discussion panel *Matki, mateczki, mamulki. Śląskie bohaterki małej i wielkiej historii XX i XXI wieku (Mothers. Silesian Heroines of Small and Big History in the 20th and 21st Century)*, also moderated by Anna Kowalczyk, featured:

- **Grażyna Bułka**, Silesian actress, known for her performance as Hanka in a widely discussed monodrama *Mianujom mie Hanka* about identity and the complex history of Silesians;
- **Agnieszka Lniak**, literary scholar and researcher of audio culture, who records and archives the stories of Silesian mining families;
- **Michał Jędryka**, educator and writer, author of *Ołowiane dzieci (Children of Lead)*, a book recounting the story of lead poisoning in Silesia as diagnosed by Dr. Jolanta Wadowska-Król, who suffered professional persecution under the communist regime for her efforts to save Silesian children.

In a thought-provoking debate on the role of women in shaping the world, the glass ceiling, the regression of rights in many parts of the globe, and the importance of narrative and voice, panelists and audience members alike explored the often-overlooked roles women have played in both public and private spheres throughout Silesia’s complex history – from resistance movements and social work to culture and family life.

This exhibition aimed to shed light on the often-forgotten contributions of influential women in shaping democratic values and cultural identity across Europe. It featured portraits and biographies of eighteen remarkable women from six European countries – including artists, philosophers, politicians, and social activists – whose lives and work significantly contributed to the ideals of freedom, equality, and solidarity.

The exhibition at *Galeria Jasna* lasted for nearly three weeks and was visited by approximately 250 people during that time.

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