

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:	D8.1		
Event name:	„MOTHERS OF EUROPE” EXHIBITION IN POLAND 2		
Type:	Exhibition, seminar, workshop		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Poland, Poznań		
Date(s):	20.05.2025 duration of exhibition : 13-25.05.2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://geremek.pl/wernisaz-wystawy-matki-europy-w-bramie-poznania/		
Participants			
Female:	75		
Male:	3		
Non-binary:	N/A		
From country 1 [Poland]:	68		
Total number of participants:	78	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
Provide a short description of the event and its activities.			
<p>From 13 to 25 May, the <i>Mothers of Europe</i> exhibition was on display on the footbridge of the <i>Brama Poznań</i>, which is part of the Poznań Heritage Centre. The exhibition showcased the pioneering achievements of women who co-shaped the foundations of contemporary Europe – champions of democracy, social progress, and justice – yet remain underrepresented in mainstream narratives about European integration. It featured eighteen exceptional women from six European countries – thinkers, artists, politicians, and activists – whose lives remind us that European values such as freedom, solidarity, and diversity were forged through multigenerational struggles in which women played a key role.</p> <p>The exhibition was officially introduced to the public with a press conference on Tuesday, 13 May at</p>			

During the event, the organizers presented the idea behind the project and offered a dedicated curator's tour to members of the media.

A week later, on Tuesday, 20 May, the official vernissage took place. The vernissage was opened by Monika Herkt-Rynarzewska, Director of the Poznań Heritage Centre. An introduction to the project – its concept, background, and accompanying activities – was delivered by project coordinator Łukasz Krawczyński. The opening was attended by curators Edyta Głowacka-Sobiech and Iwona Chmura-Rutkowska, as well as Professor Danuta Hübner, who is one of the Polish figures featured in the exhibition. The vernissage concluded with a guided curator's tour through the exhibition. During the event, Edyta Głowacka-Sobiech introduced the stories of the Mothers of Europe featured in the portraits, and together with Iwona Chmura-Rutkowska, she led a group of visitors through the exhibition.

Immediately following the vernissage, a discussion panel titled *Not for Profit: Why Democracy Needs Mothers?* was held in the conference hall of Brama Poznania. The panel addressed the role of women in Poland's sociopolitical transformations. Featured speakers included:

- **Prof. Danuta Hübner** – the first Polish EU Commissioner and long-standing Member of the European Parliament;
- **Ewa Wójciak** – opposition activist, theatre actress, and director;
- **Paulina Stochnialek** – regional politician and advocate for the creation of the Women's History Museum in Poznań.

The panel was moderated by **Iwona Chmura-Rutkowska**, an educator and sociologist affiliated with Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. Her academic and activist work focuses on anti-discrimination education, the hidden curriculum in schooling, and the history of women. During the discussion, the speakers shared their personal experiences of navigating male-dominated environments. The event created space for conversation, the exchange of ideas, and a shared reflection on the fact that the struggle for women's emancipation – started by our grandmothers – is far from over.

A crucial part of the accompanying program was also a workshop titled *The Mother Archetype in European Culture*, exploring one of humanity's oldest and most universal symbols. In myths, religions, and historical narratives, the Mother represents creation, care, protection – and sometimes destruction and transformation. Led by Anna Jankowiak – archaeologist, scholar, author of *Beasts of Antiquity* and founder of the Women's History Museum Foundation – the workshop guided participants through the archetype's symbolic manifestations and its influence on personal development, identity, and social structures. Together with the youth, the facilitator examined how the Mother archetype shapes creativity, collective imagination, and interpersonal relationships.

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 Brama Poznania attracted approximately 1,500 visitors during its two-week run.

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