

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:	D9.1		
Event name:	„MOTHERS OF EUROPE” EXHIBITION IN POLAND 3		
Type:	Exhibition, seminar, workshop		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Poland, Białystok		
Date(s):	16.06.2025 duration of exhibition : 16-29.06.2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://geremek.pl/wernisaz-wystawy-matki-europy-w-bialymstoku/		
Participants			
Female:	44		
Male:	6		
Non-binary:	N/A		
From country 1 [Poland]:	50		
Total number of participants:	50	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
Provide a short description of the event and its activities.			
<p>On Monday, June 16, the <i>Mothers of Europe</i> exhibition opened at the University Library in Białystok. The vernissage guests were welcomed by Professor Marek Kochanowski, Director of the Library. The concept and main objectives of the project were introduced by Łukasz Krawczyński, the project coordinator. This was followed by a guided tour led by curator Anna Kowalczyk, who introduced the audience to the stories of the eighteen extraordinary women featured in the exhibition – pioneers who helped shape the democratic and cultural foundations of modern Europe.</p> <p>Following the vernissage, participants gathered in the conference hall for a panel discussion titled <i>Maty, czyli matka. Podlaskie bohaterki – europejskie herstories (Maty, or Mother: Podlasie Heroines – European Herstories)</i>. The discussion was moderated by Anna Kowalczyk, curator of the <i>Mothers of Europe</i> exhibition – a journalist, writer, activist, and founder of the Women's History Museum</p>			

Foundation, as well as author of *The Missing Half of History*.

The panel featured:

- **Dr. Małgorzata Skowrońska** – sociologist at the University of Białystok and the Soclab Foundation, specializing in qualitative studies on prejudice and cultural research;
- **Karolina Czarnecka** – self-described modern witch and tender feminist; a musician, actress, performer, director, and songwriter whose work bridges multiple disciplines. She is the creator of three music albums, the youth platform *CORY (daughters)*, and a number of socially engaged performances;
- **Mariusz Bieciuk** – ambassador of community archiving in the Podlasie region and board member of the Polish Oral History Society. At the Białystok Cultural Centre – Ludwik Zamenhof Centre, he manages the oral history archive of the city and region and has contributed to many documentation projects resulting in publications, exhibitions, and educational activities.

During the panel, the speakers and audience explored the meaning of motherhood – both in its social dimension and its deeper, more primal connection to nature. The discussion delved into symbolic and cultural representations of motherhood, reflecting on how they shape societal expectations and individual identity. Panelists also shared stories of local women from the Podlasie region who, in their view, could be recognized as part of the broader narrative presented in the Mothers of Europe exhibition — women whose lives and contributions embody the same values of courage, care, and civic responsibility.

A segment of the conversation focused on Karolina Czarnecka's latest album, *Matka (Mother)*, which became a point of reflection on her personal and artistic transformation. She spoke about her journey from being a rebellious “tomboy” *daughter* who had to fight for everything – to becoming a confident *mother* who embraces her inner strength and defends her autonomy with clarity and pride. Her story added a deeply personal layer to the broader themes of heritage, transformation, and female empowerment discussed during the event.

An important part of the accompanying program was a workshop for women titled *How Inherited Beliefs and Herstories Shape Our Choices*. Participants explored the often-unconscious beliefs passed down from their mothers, grandmothers, and female ancestors – beliefs about work, love, rest, and joy. The session invited reflection on the “family ledger” of gains and losses passed through generations.

The workshop was led by Katarzyna Milewska – mediator, communication trainer, and author. A specialist in generational trauma and conflict resolution, she is the author of the bestselling book *Conflicts in the Family* and a co-founder of the Women's History Museum Foundation.

The *Mothers of Europe* exhibition in Białystok attracted approximately 300 visitors.

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