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:	[101081343] - [DRUSTVO HUMANISTOV GORISKE] ((D.h.G.))
PIC number:	[924866871]
Project name and acronym:	[COMFORT ZONE! Democracy and e-democracy thank to life skills improvement, participative cultural researches and creative laboratories] — [ETM - DEL]

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	[3]		
Event name:	[Comfort Zone: Artistic Walk for Democracy Gorizia-Nova Gorica]		
Type:	Thematic walk, exhibition, performances		
In situ/online:	*[*in-situ*]*		
Location:	[Slovenia/ Italy], [Nova Gorica/ Gorizia]		
Date(s):	[22/06/2023]		
Website(s) (if any):	https://mestoknjige.si/		
Participants			
Female:	20		
Male:	18		
Non-binary:			
From country 1 [Italy]:	28		
From country 2 [Slovenia]:	10		
From country 3 [name]:			
…			
Total number of participants:	38	From total number of countries:	2
Description *Provide a short description of the event and its activities.*			
Comfort Zone: Artistic Walk for Democracy – Gorizia-Nova Gorica			

1) event description

Artistic Walk for Democracy was an event happening between Gorizia (Italy) and Nova Gorica (Slovenia) with the aim to remember and reflect on past and present authoritarianisms and totalitarisms, to counter them through arts and culture and rethink democracy as the engagement of people coming together to co-exist and co-create.

Our focus was on public usage of the space. We wanted to give a voice to the history engraved in the public space, echo its memory, but at the same time reflect it and re-think it for a new shared future. If totalitarian regimes restrict the usage of public spaces in the quest for atomizing the population and destroying the solidarity between people so that it can be easily controlled and managed, we wanted to reframe democracy as the dynamism of diverse people coming together to co-create their lives and communities. That's how people from Gorizia and Nova Gorica can form a common civil society.

Artistic Walk for Democracy (part of the Comfort Zone project) was an afternoon event during which we visited five spots with local historical importance between Gorizia and Nova Gorica on foot and think about the topic of public engagement and the resilience of people living in the territory.

highlighting the results

The results of the process are manifold. First and foremost, we engaged and connected many organizations and individuals in the cross-border conurban area of Gorizia and Nova Gorica, and with it, we mixed their publics. This way, we mixed the visitors between them and opened a more complex approach to the topic and to the space and its memory. Many people who often visit one place, met other venues for the first time.

The main topic of our event was democracy and totalitarianism. We wanted to address the topic in two ways. By 5 different events in 5 different venues that worked on different aspects and focused on the topic and by a walk in which people from both sides of the border saw historical places of both cities and connected them in one common narrative.

The wide opening of the topic sparked a more complex understanding of it between the visitors and reconceptualized the territorial memory of totalitarianism and resistance to global problems and speculative approaches. The walk itself resembled a manifestation, showing to both cities the resilience of inhabitants and their will to coexist together countering the chauvinistic and nationalistic discourse that is becoming again mainstream in Europe.

2) structure of the activities

The activities were structured in order to engage the diversity of artists and venues and with that showing the richness of the crossborder town. In the first venue, we had a small exhibition and talked about the *desaparecidos*, the disappeared victims of the Argentinian junta that resembles the Italian fascists which had a sorrowful impact on our territory. In the second, near the synagogue, we had readings about deportations of the population during the nazism, fascism, and communism after

the war. In the third venue, directly on the border, we had a poetic and sound performance on the topic of identities and borders. In the fourth venue, there was a sound installation through a QR code of the historic speech from the 1920s of Engelbert Besednjak - one of the last Slavic members in the Italian fascist parliament-, that defends the right to use the languages in public and schools. In the last there was a video exhibition about empty spaces, conceptualizing the need for spaces to interact with each other, coexist, and practice democracy.

3) the scope of activities

The visibility was the centre scope of the project. The small venues opened and became visible to the broader public. The visibility of historical memory landmarks of the 20th century totalirianisms were approached in the walk. The topic of democracy and totalitarianisms became visible in the multitude of the artistic approaches in a new, fresh way. The last and the most important: the marching together of citizens of Gorizia and Nova Gorica was visible to by-standers and became a manifestation of unity, which has the power and will to address even the painful chapters of history.

4) the methodologies used.

The methodology was to use a wide range of artistic language - thematic walk, exhibition, installation, performance, literary readings - to rethink the topic in a fresh perspective. The continuously changing of venues not only presented different cultural centres in the double town Gorizia-Nova Gorica, but made a resemblance of a manifestation that engaged by-standers and invited them to approach.

Project collaborators: Walter Calamita, Patrizia Dughero, Simone Cuva, Lorenzo Drascek, Miha Kosovel, Andrej Kobal, Tomi Novak, Salvatore Calì, Nika Šimac.
Project venues: Agorè aps, Forum Gorizia, Carinarnica, XCenter
Project partners: Društvo humanistov Goriške, IoDeposito, Qudu Libri, Agorè aps, Forum Gorizia, XCenter
Start: 18.00
Meeting point: Agorè aps, Corso Giuseppe Verdi, 95, 34170 Gorizia/Gorica
The walk will be 3 km long. Please prepare for it (comfortable shoes, hat, etc.)

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