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:	[1] - [COO] - Municipality of Balatonfűzfő
PIC number:	871431705
Project name and acronym:	TANDEM – Towns and Democracy – Reactivate local heritage through participatory democracy; TANDEM

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	[1]		
Event name:	Connecting Citizens and Institutions in Panagyurishte		
Type:	Workshops, site visit		
In situ/online:	In situ		
Location:	Bulgaria, Panagyurishte		
Date(s):	9–11 October 2026		
Website(s) (if any):	www.balatonfuzfo.hu; A dedicated sub-page for the project: https://balatonfuzfo.hu/?oldal=1212&menu=1553		
Participants			
Female:	73 participants		
Male:	56 participants		
Non-binary:	4 participants		
From country 1 [Hungary]:	Total: 29 participants; Male: 8; Female: 18; Non-binary: 3		
From country 2 [Poland]:	Total: 20 participants; Male: 7; Female: 13; Non-binary: 0		
From country 3 [Slovakia]:	Total: 14 participants; Male: 8; Female: 6; Non-binary: 0		
From country 4 [Bulgaria]:	Total: 70 participants; Male: 33; Female: 36; Non-binary: 1		
Total number of participants:	133 participants	From total number of countries:	4

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Brief Introduction to the TANDEM Project:

The project aims to make cultural heritage a tool for strengthening community participation, democratic dialogue and local cooperation. The initiative is based on the recognition that local heritage not only preserves the values of our past but can also contribute to strengthening community identity, increasing

civic engagement and building trust between local authorities, institutions, civil society organisations and residents.

Although the project partners from Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, Slovakia and Romania have rich cultural assets, there is a clear need to strengthen inclusive governance mechanisms and tools that support citizen participation.

TANDEM addresses this need by establishing a transnational network bringing together local authorities, institutions and civil society stakeholders to jointly develop and implement participatory heritage governance models.

The partnership aims to jointly develop participatory methods and good practices that encourage local communities to become more actively involved in preserving and developing cultural heritage.

Three international meetings are planned within the project:

1. **Panagyurishte (Bulgaria):** strengthening dialogue and cooperation between local authorities, institutions and civil society organisations;

2. **Balatonfűzfő (Hungary):** intergenerational cooperation, community co-creation, and testing and developing innovative participatory methods;

3. **Śmigiel (Poland):** bringing together the project's results, strengthening long-term cooperation and developing the Heritage Participation Charter.

Schedule of Activities:

9 October 2026, Day 1 (half day): Arrival at Sofia Airport at 16:00. Participants were divided into seven teams and introduced to one another, the tasks ahead and the theme of the meeting through an event programme and task plan. Transfer to Panagyurishte, arriving at 18:30, followed by a welcome reception, check-in and participant registration at the Asarel Park Hotel. From 19:15 to 20:00, we held a closed session entitled "Local Leadership Dialogue – Mayoral and High-Level Roundtable", followed by dinner in the hotel restaurant. After dinner, participants visited the town centre.

10 October 2026, Day 2 (full day): Following breakfast in the hotel restaurant and two group photographs taken outside the hotel and at the workshop venue, WORKSHOP 1 began at 9:00 at the Kamengrad Hotel. At 9:15, the first speaker, Zhelyazko Gagov, Mayor of Panagyurishte, gave a brief introduction to the town and its achievements. At 9:25, the second speaker, Ivailo Ivanov, Deputy Mayor of Panagyurishte responsible for Strategic Development and Projects, presented the town's history, cultural assets, industrial heritage and established good practices. At 9:50, the third speaker, Ibolya Lilla Halász, Mayoral Officer of Balatonfűzfő, provided a brief introduction to Balatonfűzfő, the importance of the TANDEM project, the town's heritage profile and established good practices. At 10:10, the fourth speaker, Piotr Świdziński, Director of the School Youth Hostel in Śmigiel, discussed the role of cultural heritage in strengthening participatory democracy, involving young and older people, digital storytelling and good practices in Śmigiel. At 10:25, the fifth speaker, Ladislav Szekeres, Municipal Councillor of Nagycétény, presented the municipality's heritage and community profile, together with existing good practices and those with potential for further development. From 11:00 to 13:00, participants attended a brass band parade. Lunch was served in the hotel restaurant from 13:30 to 14:30.

WORKSHOP 2 began at 14:30 at the Kamengrad Hotel. At 14:45, the first speakers, Patrícia Varga-László and Hanna Boglárka Szentkirályi-Tóth, presented good practices from the Vágfalvi Ottó Cultural Centre, Library and Tourism Centre in Balatonfűzfő. At 15:50, the second speaker, Ibolya Lilla Halász, Mayoral Officer of Balatonfűzfő, presented good practices from the Municipality of Balatonfűzfő's Szivárvány Kindergarten and Nursery and the Irinyi János Primary School and Basic Art School in Balatonfűzfő. At 16:00, the captains of the seven multinational teams presented the results of the TANDEM TEAM CHALLENGE, followed by a summary of the good practices and opportunities for future cooperation between the partners. At 17:00, after a third group photograph, we attended the "Frescoliada" Rhythmic Gymnastics Tournament at the Arena Asarel Sports Hall, to which we had been invited. We set up a TANDEM information stand and introduced our project to the Bulgarian participants at the tournament. Between 18:00 and 20:00, participants enjoyed free time, visiting the town's attractions, shops and cafés. Following dinner at the hotel at 20:00, a dance evening began, during which all participants could discover and try Hungarian, Bulgarian and Polish folk dances.

11 October 2026, Day 3 (half day): Following breakfast in the hotel restaurant, we visited a cultural heritage site, the "Apriltsi" National Memorial Complex, during the morning. This monumental memorial stands on a hill overlooking the town and commemorates one of the most important events in Bulgarian history: the April Uprising of 1876 against Ottoman rule. A total of 230 steps lead up to the memorial, which offers beautiful views of the town. After lunch, at 14:00, we visited the History Museum and the exhibition hall housing the Panagyurishte Gold Treasure. At 15:00, discussions and the official closing of the meeting took place, followed by departure from Panagyurishte for Sofia and the journey home.

Description of Events and Activities:

Day 1: The first in-person meeting of the EU-funded TANDEM project took place in Panagyurishte, Bulgaria, with representatives of the partner municipalities of Nagycétény (Slovakia), Śmigiel (Poland) and Balatonfűzfő (Hungary). The project meeting opened with a leadership and mayoral roundtable attended by a Bulgarian Member of Parliament, the mayors of the participating delegations and local government leaders. Participants discussed their objectives and how cultural heritage could help involve citizens in democratic processes and decision-making. They also shared their previous experiences, good practices and future plans for cultural development. The discussion covered topics including industrial heritage, tourism, education, the situation of young people and the local business community.

Day 2: On the second day of the project meeting, leaders and staff from the participating partner organisations delivered detailed presentations on the good practices they had collected in participatory heritage management, tailored to their respective local needs and challenges. The project partners' delegations comprised leaders and professionals working in municipal administration, education, youth and culture, as well as specialists in community building and urban development. They also had the opportunity to present their established good practices and emerging initiatives with the potential to become good practices. During the workshops, time was allocated for the members of the seven teams to work on the TANDEM TEAM CHALLENGE tasks. The joint work focused on how local authorities and public institutions could play a more active role in strengthening community participation and bringing cultural heritage to life. During this practice-oriented event, participants discussed how applicable and effective the different methods could be in their own local contexts. They explored opportunities for cooperation with local authorities, the support required, and ways to make cultural services more inclusive and responsive to local communities' needs. Discussions also addressed which cooperation models worked most effectively in each municipality, how these could be further developed, how local needs could be communicated effectively to local authorities, and which communication channels were most successful. The final challenge was to identify a shared problem to address and develop a joint international project idea. The teams put forward several excellent ideas that could mark the beginning of successful future international cooperation between the partners.

The TANDEM project will continue with the next meeting, to be held in Balatonfűzfő in June 2027.

The target groups of the first event were primarily local decision-makers, mayors, municipal councillors, urban development professionals, tourism experts, leaders and professionals from educational and cultural institutions, representatives of civil society organisations, citizens, young people, women and persons with disabilities. The participation target set out in the proposal was met through the involvement of delegations from the four foreign partner towns.

The short-term impact of the event can be summarised as follows: the participating target groups increased their knowledge of participation and digital tools and acquired new practical skills. Through the co-creation processes, actively involved participants gained confidence and a stronger sense of their ability to take action, helping to address low levels of civic participation. Through the presentations and collaborative tasks, stakeholders became familiar with one another's needs, established lasting personal connections and creatively reinterpreted their local heritage, strengthening their identity and sense of belonging. A transnational network of towns promoting inclusive participation in cultural heritage was officially launched.

Websites, Press Coverage and Social Media Links:

Balatonfűzfő (Hungary) [COO]

Coordinator's website (official TANDEM project page)
https://www.balatonfuzfo.hu/?oldal=1212&menu=1553

MFOI Newsletter – Key to Success – Inspiring Good Practices (26 May 2026)

Article in the April 2026 Issue of Balatonfűzfői Hírlap

Press Release on the Launch of the Project (12 August 2026)

Press Release on the Launch of the Project (12 August 2026)

Balatonfűzfő at the Centre of an International Project: Five Countries Join Forces for Communities (veol.hu, 21 August 2026)

European Cooperation to Strengthen Cultural Heritage and Democratic Participation – TANDEM Project Launched under Balatonfűzfő's Leadership (balatonfuzfoinfo.hu, 27 August 2026)

TANDEM PROJECT FACEBOOK PAGE

Facebook Post about the Launch of the Project (19 August 2026)

Facebook Post about the Launch of the Project (19 August 2026)

Facebook Post about the Agenda of the Panagyurishte Meeting (1 September 2026)

Facebook Post about the Agenda of the Panagyurishte Meeting (1 September 2026)

Facebook Post about the Event Plan and Tasks for the Panagyurishte Meeting (16 September 2026)

Facebook Post about the Event Plan and Tasks for the Panagyurishte Meeting (16 September 2026)

Facebook Post about the Event Plan and Tasks for the Panagyurishte Meeting (16 September 2026)

Official Programme – Panagyurishte

Agenda – Panagyurishte

Programme for the Brass Band Parade Day – Panagyurishte, 9–11 October 2026

Panagyurishte Programme (AI-generated Content)

Balatonfűzfő's Professional Material for the Panagyurishte Meeting (10 September 2026)

Balatonfűzfő's Professional Material for the Panagyurishte Meeting (10 September 2026)

Balatonfűzfő's Presentation for the Panagyurishte Meeting (10 September 2026)

Balatonfűzfő's Presentation for the Panagyurishte Meeting (10 September 2026)

Balatonfűzfő Promotional Film

Presentation by the Vágfalvi Ottó Cultural Centre, Library and Tourism Centre of Balatonfűzfő for the Panagyurishte Meeting (21 September 2026)

Presentation by the Vágfalvi Ottó Cultural Centre, Library and Tourism Centre of Balatonfűzfő for the Panagyurishte Meeting (21 September 2026)

Professional Material from the Szivárvány Kindergarten and Nursery in Balatonfűzfő for the Panagyurishte Meeting (23 September 2026)

Professional Material from the Szivárvány Kindergarten and Nursery in Balatonfűzfő for the Panagyurishte Meeting (23 September 2026)

Presentation by the Szivárvány Kindergarten and Nursery in Balatonfűzfő for the Panagyurishte Meeting (23 September 2026)

Presentation by the Szivárvány Kindergarten and Nursery in Balatonfűzfő for the Panagyurishte Meeting (23 September 2026)

TANDEM TEAM CHALLENGE – Getting to Know Each Other Worksheet (29 September 2026)

Privacy Notice (7 October 2026)

Privacy Notice (7 October 2026)

Privacy Notice (7 October 2026)

Privacy Notice (7 October 2026)

Facebook Post: International Cooperation in Bulgaria – Balatonfűzfő Leading the TANDEM Project (4 November 2026)

Facebook Post: International Cooperation in Bulgaria – Balatonfűzfő Leading the TANDEM Project (4 November 2026)

Veľký Cetín (Slovakia)

Official TANDEM Project Page

Press Release on the Launch of the Project (velkycetin.sk, 22 August 2026)

Nagycétény's Professional Material for the Panagyurishte Meeting (8 October 2026)

Nagycétény's Professional Material for the Panagyurishte Meeting (8 October 2026)

Nagycétény's Presentation for the Panagyurishte Meeting (8 October 2026)

Nagycétény's Presentation for the Panagyurishte Meeting (8 October 2026)

Śmigiel (Poland)

Official TANDEM Project Page

Śmigiel's Resolution on Cooperation within the TANDEM Project (13 August 2026)

Resolution of the Śmigiel Town Council on Cooperation within the TANDEM Project (smigiel.pl, 13 August 2026)

Facebook Post about the TANDEM Project (8 September 2026)

Śmigiel's Presentation for the Panagyurishte Meeting (29 September 2026)

Panagyurishte (Bulgaria)

Official TANDEM Project Page

Information about the First Event in Panagyurishte (4 September 2026)

Event 1: Municipality of Panagyurishte to Host the First International Meeting of the European TANDEM Project (panagyurishte.bg, 8 October 2026)

Event 1: Municipality of Panagyurishte to Host the First International Meeting of the European TANDEM Project (pia-news.com, 9 October 2026)

Event 1: Municipality of Panagyurishte to Host the First International Meeting of the European TANDEM Project (oborishte.bg, 9 October 2026)

Event 1: Panagyurishte Hosted the First International Meeting of the European TANDEM Project (telenews.bg, 10 October 2026)

Event 1: Municipality of Panagyurishte Hosts an International Meeting on the European TANDEM Project (taralej.bg, 9 October 2026)

Photos and Video Compilations:

Event 1: Photos and Videos

Event 1: Facebook Post – Photos from the Panagyurishte Meeting (10 October 2026)

Event 1: Facebook Post – Video Compilation of the Panagyurishte Meeting (12 October 2026)

Event 1: Facebook Post – Video Compilation of the Panagyurishte Meeting (14 October 2026)

Event 1: Facebook Post – Video Compilation of Experiences in Panagyurishte (14 October 2026)

Event 1: Facebook Post – Photos from the Panagyurishte Meeting (14 October 2026)

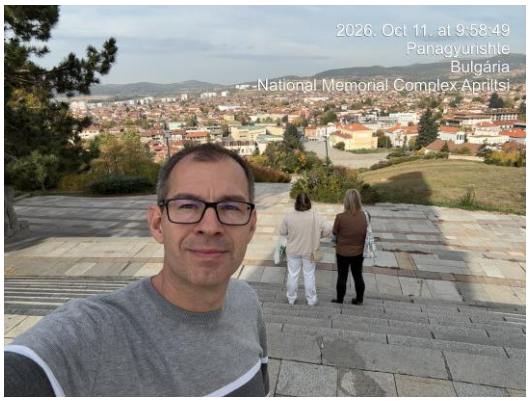
Event 1: Facebook Post – Photos from the Panagyurishte Meeting (15 October 2026)

Event 1: Facebook Post – Photos from the Panagyurishte Meeting (18 October 2026)

Event 1: Facebook Post – Photos and Videos from the Panagyurishte Meeting (24 October 2026)

Event 1: Facebook Post – Video Compilation of the Panagyurishte Event (27 October 2026)

Photos from the First Event:



HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).
2.0	04.11.2026	EDS 1 First submission of the filled-out report