

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:	LUNADIGAS
PIC number:	881634456
Project name and acronym:	Europe Plural Feminine — EPF

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	15
Event name:	EPF EPF Hackathon (Creative Meet-up)
Type:	Conference / Workshop
In situ/online:	Online
Location:	Comunità La Tempesta, Gorizia – It, Comunità Incontro, Castelfranco (Tv) - It, online
Date(s):	21/3/2025 (Gorizia, Castelfranco), 26/3/2025 (Gorizia), 18/7/2025 – 1/11/2025, 15/12/2025 online
Website(s) (if any):	
Participants	
Female:	58
Male:	48
Non-binary:	-
From country 1 [Italy]:	86
From country 2 [Spain]:	4
From country 3 [France]:	11
From country 4 [Germany]:	5
Total number of participants:	106
From total number of countries:	4
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	
<p>The EPF Hackathon, successfully rebranded as the EPF Creative Meet-up, unfolded across five comprehensive sessions, leveraging both online and onsite formats to maximize participation and reach. The central objective of this significant event was to stimulate deep reflection and dialogue regarding the critical, yet often neglected, issue of gender differences in cases of addiction—whether to gambling, drugs, or other substances. A core premise of the meet-up was the necessity of recognizing these differences, as they profoundly impact the efficacy of therapeutic strategies, often necessitating entirely different approaches based</p>	

on gender. The event took place from March to December 2025, engaging different people in the debate, in six sessions, starting on March 21st in Castelfranco and Gorizia..

The core creative phase saw the active involvement of sixteen residents hailing from the "La Tempesta" and "Incontro" therapeutic communities. They were guided and supported by a diverse team including assistants, psychologists, and animators from the broader EPF project.

The goal of this two days long phase was to collaboratively create compelling messages and content specifically designed to counteract drug use, with an explicit focus on incorporating gender-sensitive perspectives. Divided into four working teams, the messages developed by the participants strongly focused on the emotional issues that women face when struggling with addiction. The most powerful and recurring theme was the relationship between mother and son, highlighting it as a bond tragically seen as at risk when the mother engages in a therapeutic pattern (especially residential care) due to potential separation or the stigma often perceived.

Following the creation of the content, a crucial second phase involved knowledge sharing and community engagement: the young creators from the therapeutic communities met with a class of high school students from Gorizia in a peer review phase, where the students were given the opportunity to view and provide critical commentary on the produced works, fostering a vital dialogue on addiction prevention. The works were also showcased and discussed during two dedicated online sessions, extending the reach of the anti-addiction messages.

A key highlight of the sessions was the contribution of Dr. Di Prisco, a therapist at the "Incontro" Community, that delivered an insightful presentation centered on gender differences within addiction therapies.

There are many reasons for the resulting differences. Women may have different metabolic rates for substances, with higher risk for specific health complications (e.g., related to reproductive health); protocols are often based on male metabolism and their typical health profiles. Women have higher co-occurrence of trauma, mental health issues (like depression/anxiety), and histories of abuse, which often directly drive to addiction patterns; protocols focus may be primarily on behavioral modification and skill-building, potentially overlooking the deeper trauma necessary for women's recovery. Finally, women have higher likelihood of responsibilities related to childcare or family care, making residential treatment difficult or impossible without specialized support, where men put less emphasis on family/parental responsibilities.

Dr. Di Prisco forcefully underscored a critical systemic gap: current therapeutic protocols and, notably, the organizational structures of most therapeutic communities, are often ill-equipped to effectively treat women. The central finding is that current addiction therapies and the structure of most therapeutic communities are not adequately equipped to treat women effectively for a systemic bias - the protocols and organization tend to be modeled around the typical presentation and needs of male addicts, which often results in a poor fit for female patients, all resulting in a particular vulnerability for the women, due to their distinct physiological and psychological characteristics.

The EPF Creative Meet-up culminated with a Question and Answer (Q&A) session, allowing participants to seek further clarification and discuss the critical topics raised.

To protect the participants, being hosts of the therapeutic communities, we decided to make use of avatars created by the AI, to present their work and thoughts in a safe way.

To ensure feedback and compliance with funding requirements, all attendees were asked to complete the European Commission questionnaire designed to evaluate the event itself and

gather data on the CERV program (Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values program), which provided support for the initiative.

106 people participated to the event, coming from 4 different countries, testifying the interest of the public for the initiative and its themes, with a great majority of women.

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