

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:	REDE PORTUGUESA DE JOVENS PARA A IGUALDADE DE OPORTUNIDADES ENTRE MULHERES E HOMENS [REDE]
PIC number:	949148590
Project name and acronym:	My Body is My Own — My body is my Own

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	7
Event name:	NATIONAL EVENT FOR CITIENZ (PORTUGAL)
Type:	Conference and workshop
In situ/online:	In situ
Location:	Lisbon, Portugal
Date(s):	19 to 20th July 2024
Website(s) (if any):	https://redejovensigualdade.org.pt/homepage/projeto-my-body-is-my-own-cerv-2022-citizens-civ/
Participants	
Female:	69
Male:	4

Non-binary:	4		
From country 1 [Portugal]:	75		
From country 2 [Italy]:	2		
Total number of participants:	77	From total number of countries:	2

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The Feminist Meeting was the last event of the 'My Body is My Own' project and took place in Lisbon at the headquarters of the feminist organisation UMAR. The event involved several organisations which are part of the network for sexual and reproductive rights in Portugal: UMAR, OVO, APMJ, AKTO and PpDM,

OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT

The aim of this event was to address two different but directly linked themes: issues of female sexuality and their relationship to the exploitation of women, and issues of reproductive rights, focussing on access to abortion, in an engaging way, with the objective to raise citizen's awareness on the topic.

The event brought together different people and organisations who sat down to reflect on these issues through a dialogue between citizens through a series of debates and workshops.

WHAT WE DISCUSSED AT THIS TWO-DAY MEETING

The meeting began on the 19th with a short presentation of the 'My Body is my Own' project. It was opened by a member of the Network's board, a member of the UMAR's board and a member of the organisation REDE.

In the second panel, entitled 'WOMEN AND SEXUALITY', a Public Prosecutor and APMJ member addressed the markedly androcentric nature of the law from the point of view of the history of the law and how women have been perceived as the 'property' of male relatives or husbands, and what future we can collectively imagine for a law that can play an emancipatory role for women. Later a young activist and master's student spoke about some of the historical characteristics of female sexuality, focussing on the case of pornography as an example of the sexual exploitation of women. Citizens had the opportunity to reflect on the concept of "right" from a critical perspective, which included the gender perspective and, through a workshop facilitated by the panelists, they could draft their own definition of what a right is and what a sexual right is.

A researcher at the NOVA Centre for the Study of Gender, Family and the Law, with the Director of the London office of the UN Population Fund held a panel on the demographic crisis. The latter addressed the role of the UN Population Fund, what the challenges are for demography in the future and how demographic policies, in particular the notions of employment, social security and women's rights, cannot be reversed in the name of nativist demographic policies. Also, citizens were engaged in a debate on the current narrative on the demographic problem in Europe and, through a world café session they reflected on how it threatens sexual and reproductive rights.

On the second day, the meeting began with the panel RIGHT TO ABORTION: FROM LEGAL BASIS TO REAL ACCESS. This panel was divided into two parts: two academic-theoretical interventions and two interventions to publicise the reality of access to abortion. In the theoretical component, we had the participation of constitutionalist researcher, who explained her research into the right to conscientious objection and how it is invoked without clear criteria when it comes to the provision of healthcare, particularly VIP. Next, a researcher at the NOVA Centre for the Study of Gender, Family and the Law and Vice-President of REDE, presented the different political arguments to support the political right to abortion, bringing to the discussion a reflection on unwanted pregnancy and torture,

which is never taken into consideration on a legal level.

A member of OVO - Observatory for obstetrician violence and a sexual counsellor from the Italian organisation Maghweb explained in detail how abortion rights are realised in Portugal and Italy, thanks to a comparative debate, as the two countries have many similarities when it comes to the difficulties and barriers faced by women who want to have an abortion. The two activists shared their daily work and how their organisations are essential to supporting women and girls. Also, the panelists engaged the citizens in a debate on what can be done as citizens to make sure that our sexual rights are respected, sharing activism and political participation practices.

After the panel, the participants split into three working groups to discuss the following issues: Conscientious objection, the political basis of abortion, how to improve access to abortion in the EU?

In the afternoon, the second panel - PORNOGRAPHY AND THE PARADIGM OF CONSENT - focussed on women's sexuality and the different perspectives and proposals on it. The panel opened with the Network President reflecting on the notion of consent and whether or not the paradigm of consent is appropriate for women and to what extent we shouldn't be talking about the paradigm of domination and the paradigm of desire. Finally, a member from Umar's Board and a researcher at the FCSH, presented some divergent ideas about pornography - the researcher focussed on her research into Only Fans in Portugal and the member of UMAR's board on the need to rethink sexual rights also in relation with this new phenomenon.

As with the previous panel, the group was split into two working groups - one on the notions of consent and the other on Pornography. There followed a long and intense debate on these two issues, in particular on everything related to pornography and its role in the construction of women's sexuality.

The event closed with a final talk/sharing session on different abortion issues, with the special participation of an international organisation dedicated to supporting women who don't have access to health care to have a medical abortion, on combating violence against women and domestic violence.

HISTORY OF CHANGES

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