

## 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	
<b>Participant:</b>	Active Women Association (AWA)
<b>PIC number:</b>	945266941
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	My Body is My Own — My body is my Own

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
<b>Event number:</b>	2		
<b>Event name:</b>	NATIONAL EVENT FOR PROFESSIONALS (POLAND)		
<b>Type:</b>	Seminar		
<b>In situ/online:</b>	<i>[in-situ]</i>		
<b>Location:</b>	Poland, Sosnowiec		
<b>Date(s):</b>	31st May 2023		
<b>Website(s) (if any):</b>	<a href="http://aktywnekobiety.org.pl//mojecialomojawlasnoscia/">http://aktywnekobiety.org.pl//mojecialomojawlasnoscia/</a>		
Participants			
Female:	23		
Male:	2		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 (Poland):	25		
Total number of participants:	25	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The main aim of this event was to discuss women's reproductive rights and counter the misinformation surrounding them, especially in Polish traditional media and Polish social media. The event engaged 25 people with different backgrounds and experiences in the field of reproductive rights in an informative and stimulating participatory debate and the interactive quality of the debate the expert panellist's talks allowed for the identification of experiences and good practices that can be shared with partner organisations from Italy and Portugal during the project's international conference (WP4).</p> <p>The event involved a panel discussion with 3 key speakers and the other participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A PhD graduate in cultural studies from the University of Silesia, feminist, creator and mentor for cultural studies, activism and <i>herstory</i> projects. Passionate about local history, and women's history in particular. Social communication expert with corporate and political experience.</li> </ul>			

- A biographer of important Polish female historical figures, educator and trainer.
- A PhD graduate in legal sciences, assistant professor at INP WPIA of the University of Silesia, member of the research team on the development of public international law and human rights, co-chair of the equality and diversity committee at the University of Silesia.

These speakers involved participants in a debate on the lexicon and terminology used to express issues related to women's reproductive rights, from a legal, activist and political perspective. The panel discussion and participatory debate was also an opportunity for participants coming from different organisations and women's rights networks to arrive at a collective definition of sexual and reproductive rights, which they look forward to sharing during the international conference. The relationship between human rights and sexual and reproductive rights was analysed throughout the panel discussion and debate from a legal, political and activist perspective, thanks to the multi-disciplinary approaches of the different panellists and participants. This multi-perspective understanding of sexual and reproductive rights (legal, political, activist) was identified as an essential good practice when it comes to protecting and guaranteeing women's rights in this field and spreading accurate and reliable information about sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The first speaker drew attention to the history of the language used to discuss and communicate abortion and raised awareness about the different aspects of the language of rebellion. She then underlined the need to internalise language that resists patriarchal culture and pointed out the "radical self-determination in the language of rebellion." She also underlined the importance of criticising capitalism from a feminist perspective critique, concluding that history itself needs to be revised with a consistent gendered perspective. Both these points were identified by the participants as important attitudes and methods in activism and civic life that should be practiced daily and marked as good practices to share at the international conference. Following her intervention, participants were asked to reflect on the different terminology they are exposed to when it comes to women's reproductive rights and collectively debate and develop strategies for the use of a fairer, more inclusive language. This reflection led to participants giving concrete examples to one another about how to talk fairly, inclusively and respectfully about sexual and reproductive rights.

The second speaker talked about the evolving history of women's rights in Polish politics since 1993 and women's participation in politics. Participants then co-created a timeline of the most important historic moments for women's rights in Poland with the speaker. The speaker then focused on the lack of legal access to abortion in Poland and the women's movement that has been developed over the years to legalise abortion. The speaker then activated a debate among participants about the role of Women's Congress, the largest Polish women's social movement which struggled for a wide range of women's social issues and promoted various initiatives for the empowerment of women and the advancement of gender equality, sexual health and reproductive rights. Both the timeline and subsequent debate meant that the participants left the event with a deep understanding about the inextricable link between current women's rights activism in Poland and historical struggles for women's rights, feeling that their work is part of an important historical continuum.

The last panellist discussed the most common ways journalists and media communicators incorrectly and inaccurately present the procedures that are necessary to carry out abortion. The speaker invited participants to collectively analyse press content recounting abortion so that they could then identify the most common, misinformative narrative about abortion in Poland. This analytical exercise successfully strengthened participants' ability to recognise and thus deconstruct and expose harmful, misinformative narratives about the issue, enabling them to explain to their spheres of influence precisely how such narratives are harmful and misinformative.

To conclude the panel discussion and participatory debate, all participants, guided by the whole group of speakers, reflected on and discussed the impact of this narrative on citizen's social perception of abortion in Polish society. This conclusive part of the discussion helpfully clarified the forces behind the social obstacles to women's free access to their sexual and reproductive rights in Poland and thus their understanding about how to navigate such obstacles. During this discussion, the last panellist drew attention to important legal perspectives regarding abortion, specifying that abortion is not in itself a human right but that access to this sexual and reproductive health service is necessary to protection human beings' right to life, privacy, equality and non-discrimination. Viewing and discussing the right to abortion within a human rights framework was thus identified here as a good and important practice when it comes to raising awareness about the issue and spreading accurate information about it.

The positive, results of this open, informative discussion was shared on local media and within the University of Silesia, raising wider public awareness about positive ways of engaging with sexual and reproductive rights.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE

1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).