

## 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>	Maghweb
<b>PIC number:</b>	935616314
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	My body is my own - My body is my own

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
<b>Event number:</b>	4		
<b>Event name:</b>	International Event for Professionals and citizens (Italy)		
<b>Type:</b>	Workshops, conferences		
<b>In situ/online:</b>	<a href="#">[in-situ]</a>		
<b>Location:</b>	Italy, Palermo		
<b>Date(s):</b>	26.09.2023-29.09.2023		
<b>Website(s) (if any):</b>	<a href="https://www.maghweb.org/diritti-sessuali-e-riproduttivi-pratiche-e-strumenti-per-identificare-e-contrastare-la-disinformazione/">https://www.maghweb.org/diritti-sessuali-e-riproduttivi-pratiche-e-strumenti-per-identificare-e-contrastare-la-disinformazione/</a>		
Participants			
Female:	21		
Male:	4		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Italy]:	19		
From country 2 [Poland]:	3		
From country 3 [Portugal]:	3		
Total number of participants:	25	From total number of countries:	3
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The 4-day-long international event in Palermo involved 25 participants from 3 different countries. Participants were either members of the partnership's staff, activists who are closely associated with the participating organisations or local activists who wanted to share practices and experiences about their work with citizens, and in particular young people, on spreading correct, scientific information about sexual health and sexual and reproductive rights and raising awareness. The event was an opportunity for staff members and activists to exchange information about their national sexual and</p>			

reproductive health contexts: each organisation and their associated activists informed the others, in-depth, about the state of the art regarding the protection of sexual and reproductive rights in their countries (with a focus on VPT, Voluntary Pregnancy Termination). The participants also shared the good practices identified in occasion of the research activities and previous events, and integrated these sets of practices into their daily work against misinformation and other forces impeding this right.

Thanks to specific meetings and the intensive involvement of staff members and activists who are local to Palermo and are active on women’s rights, international participants also got to know the local branches of long standing national and international entities such as UDI (Women’s Union Italy) or Non Una di Meno Palermo (the local faction of the global Ni una Menos movement). This was extremely inspiring for the Polish and Portuguese organisations in terms of how to reinforce and enrich their own local activist networks to improve sexual health and sexual and reproductive rights protection.

During the event’s work group sessions, activists analysed the roots of the different problems and barriers to holistic sexual and reproductive health in each country with the world café methodology, interactive presentations and sharing circles. In particular, they scrutinized the lack of comprehensive sexual education, the denial of the right to abortion and the barriers to people’s enjoyment of sexual and reproductive rights and their lack of protection. They also provided counter actions for each of these common, transnational challenges.

The event engaged the local community as indirect participants with an on the ground activity where activists interacted with the local citizens and established stimulating, intercultural dialogue with different local figures who are engaged in the construction of narratives free of stigma, blame and guilt tripping for people who request an abortion. These enriching conversations led to the development of a roadmap for the identification of false and/or tendentious news about sexual and reproductive health and rights. The roadmap was then developed during an animated, multi-phase story sharing, brainstorming and testing session: after sharing multi-national examples of multi-media misinformation and propaganda regarding sexual health, reproductive rights and abortion, the activists and staff participating in the session brainstormed different accessible “tips” that could be followed to identify and counteract each form of misinformation. These “tips” were formulated from our own collective and individual experiences of being critical readers, listeners and thinkers. These “tips” were then tested out by the participants and other local citizens “live”: working in focus groups citizens used them with staff members and activists to debunk a series of new and previously unseen misinformative articles, videos and advertisements about abortion from Italy, Poland and Portugal. The tips of the roadmap were then improved with small alterations, following a feedback discussion about their levels of efficacy. On the 28th of September, International Safe Abortion Day, international participants, in collaboration with locals, put together an intervention in order to actively take part and stimulate debate in the civic gathering co-organised by Maghweb and Non una di Meno Palermo. During this gathering, members of the local community could interact with the organisation and partners and obtain informative material on contraception, STIs (sexually transmitted infections) and emergency contraception.

The event successfully contributed to the project’s objectives: it reinforced each organisation’s set of good international and local practices, educational methodologies and information construction capacities for the promotion and protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights; and enabled the realisation, through citizen engagement, of tips and tools for debunking fake news on this topic. The event was also an opportunity for participants to express and affront common challenges and reinforce advocacy skills and awareness raising on sexual and reproductive rights. The participants also enriched their techniques in collectively driven civic activism, strengthened their civic engagement practices regarding key women’s rights issues and improved their knowledge about culture-specific and international forms of activism across Europe. Simultaneously, they established stimulating connections in an EU network with other activists from 3 different countries.

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