

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	
Project name and acronym:	GSECCPUG– Grow, Share, Engage! Cultivating Civic Participation through Urban Gardens
Participant:	AYUNTAMIENTO DE RAFELGUARAF (RAFELGUARAF) (Spain)
PIC number:	101192018

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	[1]
Event name:	"GROW, SHARE, ENGAGE! CULTIVATING CIVIC PARTICIPATION THROUGH URBAN GARDENS"
Type:	Project Launch and Stakeholder Engagement Workshop
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	Rafelguaraf, Valencia, Spain
Date(s):	March 25-28, 2025
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.rafelguaraf.es/pagina/grow-share-engage-cultivating-civic-participation-through-urban-gardens
Participants	
Female:	9
Male:	6
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Spain]:	8 M 5F
From country 2 [Bulgaria]:	2 M
From country 3 [Greece]:	2 F
From country 4 [Hungary]:	1 M, 1 F
From country 5 [Italy]:	2 M

From country 6 [Poland]:	2 F		
From country 7 [Portugal]:	2 F		
From country 8 [Romania]:	2 F, 1 M		
Total number of participants:	27	From total number of countries:	8

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Project Context:

The “Grow, Share, Engage! Cultivating Civic Participation through Urban Gardens” project aims to promote **civic participation** through the establishment and enhancement of urban gardens integrating **nature-based solutions (NbS)** to mitigate climate change effects and promote urban sustainability. This initiative is part of a broader effort to build more **resilient and ecologically balanced cities** through transnational collaboration.

The event in **Rafelguaraf**, which marked the start of the project's activities, is crucial for the **development and implementation** of solutions agreed upon by the partners. Furthermore, it is key to securing the **approval of the first event** by the **European Commission** as stipulated in the grant agreement.

Agenda and Activities Undertaken:

Day 1: March 25, 2025 – Arrival and Welcome Dinner

- 19:00h – Arrival at Valencia Airport and Transfer to Rafelguaraf:**
Participants arrived in Valencia and were transported via bus to the accommodation in Rafelguaraf, where the project activities were set to take place. This was an essential step in ensuring that all participants arrived safely and on time, laying the groundwork for the next day's events.
- 21:00h – Welcome Dinner:**
The welcome dinner served as an informal introduction to the project and its participants. In a relaxed atmosphere, participants were introduced to each other, setting the tone for open collaboration throughout the event. The dinner also served as an opportunity to discuss initial expectations, the overall scope of the project, and the importance of the upcoming activities.
Key Outcome: Establishment of a collaborative environment and mutual understanding among participants.

Day 2: March 26, 2025 – Project Launch and Workshops

- 09:30h – Project Launch Meeting at Rafelguaraf Town Hall:**
The event began with a formal **Project Launch Meeting**, held at the **Rafelguaraf Town Hall**. The meeting was opened by representatives from the coordinating organization, who introduced the project's main objectives, scope, and expected results. Partners presented their organizations and outlined their roles within the project, ensuring that all stakeholders were aligned on the project's goals and deliverables.
Key Outcome: Clarity of project objectives, roles, and collaborative expectations set for the next phases.
- 11:30h – Planning and Strategy Workshop:**
Following the launch meeting, the **Planning and Strategy Workshop** allowed participants to engage in more detailed discussions about the project's implementation. The focus was on:
 - Finalizing **schedules** and identifying key deadlines.

2. Allocating responsibilities for each **work package (WP)**.
3. Reviewing communication strategies and ensuring that the information flow would remain clear and efficient throughout the project.
This workshop also included discussions on the logistics of organizing activities across different partner countries, keeping in mind their **local challenges and opportunities** for community engagement.
Key Outcome: Clear timelines and deliverables for each partner, as well as a structured communication plan for the project.

- **14:00h – Lunch Break:**

A catered lunch provided an informal setting for further networking among participants, facilitating informal conversations and strengthening relationships between partners.

- **16:00h – Stakeholder Engagement Workshop:**

The afternoon session was dedicated to the **Stakeholder Engagement Workshop**. This session was designed to involve participants in the **mapping of stakeholders** relevant to the project. The objective was to identify various groups, such as local authorities, educational institutions, NGOs, youth organizations, and private sector entities, that would play a key role in the success of the project.

The activity was divided into two parts:

1. **Stakeholder Mapping:** Each group worked collaboratively to identify stakeholders, categorize them based on their level of involvement, and place them in the context of the project.
2. **Practical Exercise:** After mapping the stakeholders, each group was tasked with developing a detailed **action plan** to engage and retain their interest throughout the project lifecycle. This involved brainstorming potential incentives, communication strategies, and mechanisms for sustained engagement.
Key Outcome: A visual map of key stakeholders and action plans aimed at long-term engagement, crucial for maintaining momentum throughout the project.

- **17:30h – Break and Informal Discussions:**

A short break allowed participants to reflect on the day's activities and engage in informal conversations. This time was also used to discuss any immediate questions or concerns that arose during the workshops.

Day 3: March 27, 2025 – Institutional Reception and Field Visit

- **09:30h – Institutional Reception with the Mayoress of Catarroja:**

On the third day, the participants were formally welcomed by the **Mayoress of Catarroja**, who highlighted the importance of **sustainable urban development** in their municipality. The reception was followed by an in-depth discussion about the **DANA catastrophe** and its effects on local communities, illustrating how climate change is directly impacting urban areas.

The Mayoress stressed the importance of **collaborative efforts** to address these challenges, underscoring the relevance of the “**Grow, Share, Engage!**” project in supporting local sustainability efforts.

Key Outcome: Strengthened relations with local government and reinforcement of the project's local relevance.

- **10:30h – Panel Discussion on Ecological Transition:**

A panel discussion led by experts from **Singular Green** and **Sustainable Urban Planning** focused on **green transition strategies** and the importance of **ecological sustainability**. Case studies from **Valencia** and other European cities were shared to highlight practical approaches to sustainability in urban areas.

Topics covered included:

- **Green infrastructure** and its role in climate resilience.
- **Challenges and opportunities** in fostering green cities.
- **Regulatory frameworks** supporting sustainability initiatives.

Key Outcome: Valuable insights into real-world applications of green urban

strategies that partners can adapt and implement in their own countries.

- 14:00h – Lunch in Albufera:**
 A traditional Valencian lunch was held at a local restaurant, providing a relaxed environment for continued networking and informal discussions on the morning's panel.
- 16:00h – Visit to Albufera:**
 The afternoon included a field trip to **Albufera**, a region renowned for its biodiversity and sustainable land-use practices. Participants learned about ongoing **natural resource management** initiatives and **climate change adaptation measures** being implemented in the area.
 This visit allowed participants to witness firsthand how **nature-based solutions** (NbS) are being applied in a **real-world setting**, particularly in water management and habitat preservation.
Key Outcome: Increased understanding of NbS in practice, inspiring partners to implement similar solutions in their local contexts.
- 20:00h – Dinner in Xàtiva:**
 The group enjoyed a dinner in **Xàtiva**, a historical city known for its cultural heritage. This served as an opportunity for further informal discussions, including reflections on the field trip and ideas for future collaborations.

Day 4: March 28, 2025 – Departure and Future Collaboration

- 09:00h – Check-out and Departure:**
 On the final day, participants checked out of their accommodation and gathered for a brief farewell session. During this time, they reviewed the key takeaways from the event, emphasized the next steps, and discussed the upcoming events in the project's timeline.
Key Outcome: Reaffirmation of project goals and timelines, as well as the importance of continued collaboration across all partner countries.

Conclusion:

The event was a significant milestone in the development of the “*Grow, Share, Engage!*” project. The comprehensive activities, ranging from formal presentations to hands-on workshops and field visits, provided participants with a deep understanding of the project's core goals and actionable next steps. With a shared vision and clearly defined roles, the project is well-positioned to move forward and achieve its objectives.

Conclusions and Results:

Importance of the Event for the Project:

The **Rafelguaraf event** was essential for the **official launch** of the project and allowed partners to establish a **solid foundation for collaboration**. This meeting allowed participants to **align objectives**, **coordinate logistics**, and **define priorities** for the development of upcoming activities. The active participation of partners in the **workshops** and discussions on **sustainable management and civic engagement** reflected the shared commitment to the core principles of the project.

The dates for the upcoming events were chosen considering **logistical needs** and **alignment with local holidays and festivals** to maximize **impact** and **community participation**. The event scheduling across multiple countries ensures **transnational visibility** of the project.

Event Dates and Assigned WPs:

The following event dates were confirmed to ensure **cohesion** and **optimal resource utilization** across the project:

- WP2 Poland:** June 10-13, 2025
- Hungary:** September 9-12, 2025
- Bulgaria:** End of January 2026

- **Portugal:** April 2026
- **Italy:** May 7-10, 2026
- **Romania:** June 2026
- **Greece:** Last week of September or first week of October 2026

These dates were chosen to align with **local logistical requirements** and significant cultural events, ensuring maximum participation and impact in each region.

WP8 - Online Conference: Ideas and Expectations

The discussion on **WP8**, an online conference, led to a brainstorming session that generated several key ideas for the event, including:

- **Infographic** showcasing all project partners, their roles, and contributions.
- **Thematic Debates:** 150 participants will be divided into 4 groups to discuss topics related to **urban sustainability** and **youth involvement**.
- **Panel Discussions** centered on sharing **best practices** from each participating country.
- Development of a **hybrid event** that combines **physical and online participation** to broaden the event's reach.
- Additional **interactive virtual sessions**, focusing on **youth participation** and **social innovation**.

Importance for Project Approval:

The Rafelguaraf event is crucial for **validating the initial phase** of the project and demonstrating its **feasibility** to the **European Commission**. The activities carried out and the agreements reached are fundamental steps to meet the **pre-conditions** and ensure that the project progresses as planned. The successful execution of this event is key to **obtaining approval for the first event** and, consequently, the **continuation** of the planned activities.

Recommendations for Next Steps:

- **Formal confirmation of event dates** with all partners, ensuring maximum participation at each event.
- Development of a **communication plan** to maintain **cohesion** among partners throughout the project.
- Preparation of materials and content for **WP8**, focusing on creating an inclusive platform for discussion and collaboration.

Final Conclusion:

The event held in **Rafelguaraf** has been pivotal in **activating the project** and laying the groundwork for **successful collaboration** among all partners. The active participation, careful planning, and commitment to the project's objectives ensure that the **upcoming activities** will be equally effective, maximizing the project's impact across all involved countries. This event has met the **initial requirements** set forth by the **European Commission**, setting a **positive precedent** for the execution of future activities.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE

1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).