EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	Câmara Municipal de Vouzela
PIC number:	897501813
Project name and acronym:	Rural Alliance for Greater Democratic Participation - **RurAll**

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	4th		
Event name:	European Integration and Intercultural Dialogue		
Type:	Conference		
In situ/online:	*[*in-situ*]*		
Location:	Kázar, Hungary		
Date(s):	16-19 March, 2026		
Website(s) (if any):	https://kazar.hu/		
Participants			
Female:	35		
Male:	19		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Bulgaria]:	2		
From country 2 [Croatia]:	1		
From country 3 [France]:	4		
From country 4 [Greece]:	1		
From country 5 [Hungary]:	34		
From country 6 [Italy]:	1		
From country 7 [Latvia]:	1		
From country 8 [Lithuania]:	1		
From country 9 [Malta]:	1		
From country 10 [Poland]:	1		
From country 11 [Portugal]:	3		
From country 12 [Slovakia]:	2		
From country 13 [Slovenia]:	1		
From country 14 [Spain]:	2		
Total number of participants:	54	From total number of countries:	14
Description			

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

From 16 to 19 March 2026, the fourth RurAll Network of Towns meeting took place in Kazár, Hungary, under the theme “European Integration and Intercultural Dialogue”, bringing together 54 participants, of whom 34 were local participants and 20 were international participants, with a balanced and inclusive composition of 19 men and 35 women.

The event gathered representatives from rural territories across Europe within the framework of the CERV Programme, with the aim of reflecting on European integration, intercultural dialogue and the role of cultural heritage as a driver of democratic participation and social cohesion.

The meeting pursued several interconnected objectives: to strengthen civic and electoral engagement in rural communities; to improve participants’ understanding of European decision-making and the practical impact of EU policies at local level; to share successful experiences and lessons learned in the fields of integration, education, rural development and community participation; to foster inclusive dialogue between local authorities, civil society, educational actors and international partners; and to consolidate long-term cooperation among rural municipalities through peer learning, mutual trust and the exchange of transferable practices.

The programme began on Monday 16 March with the arrival of participants, check-in and an informal welcome dinner, which created the first opportunity for networking among local citizens, institutional representatives and international delegations.

On Tuesday 17 March, the working sessions opened with the presentation of the project, participants and programme of activities, followed by official greetings from Ákos Gecse, Mayor of Kazár, and Carlos Oliveira, Mayor of Vouzela, introducing the central theme of cultural diversity in European construction. A high-level round table then addressed European Integration and Social Cohesion, with the participation of national and regional stakeholders and the expert Anna Biró, whose contribution on rural development projects encouraged an analytical and participatory debate among the delegations. The educational dimension of the meeting was also strongly represented through the presentation of Erasmus+ experiences by teachers from Bolyai János Gymnasium, highlighting how schools can become active spaces for European values, intercultural dialogue and youth engagement. The day continued with a traditional Hungarian lunch and a cultural discovery of Kazár, including visits to the Country House, the Miner’s House and other local landmarks, allowing participants to understand how local memory, folk architecture, mining heritage and Palóc traditions contribute to a shared sense of belonging and community identity. The visit to the exhibition dedicated to the journey of Lőrinc Tar added a further historical and cultural layer to the programme, linking local narratives with broader European reflections on identity, mobility and heritage.

On Wednesday 18 March, participants took part in a good-practices session at Belvárosi Képzőközpont under the topic “Success Stories of European Integration and Social Cohesion”, where delegations exchanged both positive experiences and practical challenges related to inclusion, rural participation and intercultural cooperation. This session was particularly valuable because it created a transparent space for discussing not only achievements but also difficulties, allowing partners to identify systemic obstacles, compare local realities and transform previous limitations into lessons for future action.

The programme also included advance information on the next project meeting in Križevci, dissemination work, evaluation activities and cultural visits, which complemented the formal sessions with informal exchanges and strengthened interpersonal bonds among participants. The meeting concluded on Thursday 19 March with breakfast, check-out and departures.

The evaluation of the event reflected a very high level of satisfaction with the organisation, content and hospitality. Participants appreciated the balance between institutional dialogue, educational workshops, cultural immersion and informal networking, as well as the punctuality and smooth logistics of the programme.

The event was considered especially successful in connecting the rural reality of Kazár with wider European debates on integration and social cohesion, showing that cultural diversity is not only a heritage asset but also a democratic resource capable of bringing communities closer together.

The main outcomes of the meeting included a deeper understanding of how European values can be translated into local rural contexts, stronger cooperation between partner territories, increased awareness of the role of education in promoting intercultural dialogue, and the identification of heritage-based approaches as tools for strengthening community cohesion.

Overall, the Kazár event confirmed the relevance of combining policy dialogue, educational exchange and cultural discovery as a methodology for rural democratic empowerment, reinforcing the RurAll project’s broader objective of building more inclusive, connected and participatory rural communities across Europe.

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