

## 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>	2. Alliance4Europe gGmbH (A4E)
<b>PIC number:</b>	897888746
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Mothers of Europe (Mothers)

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
<b>Event number:</b>	D2.1
<b>Event name:</b>	Mothers of Europe: The untold history of women who shaped a continent – opening expert event in Germany
<b>Type:</b>	Seminar
<b>In situ/online:</b>	In situ
<b>Location:</b>	Berlin, Germany
<b>Date(s):</b>	21.10.2024
<b>Website(s) (if any):</b>	<a href="https://alliance4europe.eu/mothers-of-europe-opening-workshop">https://alliance4europe.eu/mothers-of-europe-opening-workshop</a>
Participants	
Female:	17
Male:	8
Non-binary:	N/A
From country 1 [Germany]:	20
From country 2 [Poland]	1
From country 3 [Italy]	1
From country 4 [Spain]	3
Total number of participants:	25
From total number of countries:	4
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	
The 'Mothers of Europe – The untold history of the women who shaped a continent' was an opening session for the project Mothers of Europe. The session took place in Berlin at the European School of Management and Technology (ESMT), on the 21st of October. The meeting was chaired by Benjamin Zeeb, Head of Partnership at Alliance4Europe, and Dr Sarah Horn, Program Director at ESMT Berlin	

The Mothers of Europe opening session was held in Auditorium II, once part of the GDR State Council ballroom – a space that, like the event itself, has played a role in shaping Europe's history. With its mosaic of the GDR coat of arms by Heinrich Jungebloedt, the room's historical depth resonated with the event's purpose of honouring women who have influenced European values. Equipped with advanced technology, the auditorium allowed attendees to connect meaningfully with discussions on the lasting impact of women leaders in European history.

At the Mothers of Europe opening session, Aileen McKay – a social entrepreneur advancing inclusion and empowerment, especially for women, through grassroots and policy initiatives – delivered a powerful keynote on the themes of positivity, power, and positionality, highlighting the often-overlooked contributions of women and queer people compared to men. Citing Hannah Arendt, she discussed the idea that power only exists collectively and cannot be separated from positionality. Aileen McKay identified two types of positionality: the inherited aspects, like social, economic, and gendered backgrounds, and the chosen aspects, which reflect personal values, thoughts, and political stances. She emphasised that privilege often makes certain positions invisible, and understanding this is essential for meaningful allyship. Aileen McKay concluded by stressing the importance of recognizing both the collectives we are born into and those we actively choose, as these define and shape our contributions to society.

The first panel focused on women's empowerment in politics and featured Aileen McKay and Ana-Maria Trăsnea. Ana-Maria Trăsnea advocates for gender equality as co-founder of the Women's Leadership Network, inspiring young women in civic engagement and leadership. In the second panel, speakers Martin Speer – a political consultant and activist focused on a united Europe and youth engagement through digital activism, Magali Hubers – Governance Officer at European Youth Forum and Helen Neitemeier – Volunteer with Wir für Demokratie e.V. and Brand New Bundestag explored the barriers women face in storytelling and how allyship is built.

The primary objective of the Mothers of Europe opening session is to honour and bring visibility to the influential yet often overlooked contributions of women leaders in shaping European integration and democratic values. The event seeks to inspire and empower a new generation of women and allies to engage in political, social, and cultural leadership by exploring historical legacies and contemporary challenges faced by women across Europe.

Attendees of the Mothers of Europe opening session left with a deeper understanding of the critical roles women have played in shaping European history and values. Aileen McKay's keynote introduced the concept of positionality, encouraging participants to reflect on how their own identities influence their contributions and visibility. Discussions emphasised the power of language in empowerment, with Aileen McKay advocating for reframing gendered terminology to combat implicit biases. Ana-Maria Trăsnea inspired attendees by highlighting how curiosity and inclusive environments can empower individuals from diverse backgrounds. The second panel illustrated the barriers women face in sharing their stories, with Martin Speer's journey to allyship motivating attendees, particularly men, to engage actively in discussions on gender equality. Helen Neitemeier's focus on supporting marginalised candidates provided practical strategies for fostering equity. Overall, participants gained actionable insights and tools to advance women's leadership across Europe, leaving with a strong sense of solidarity and commitment to promoting gender equity in their own communities.

The "Mothers of Europe" workshop brought together a diverse group of participants, including experts, political scientists, managers, students, CEOs, and founders. The attendees reflected experts and multipliers who enriched the dialogue during the event and carried the discussion further outside of the event.

A complementary part of the opening expert session was the lunch talk, during which a small focus group discussed the content and development of the exhibition. The questions discussed were: What does it need for the exhibition to make a difference; What would you expect from such an exhibition; What would you like to see in the exhibition; What kind of program could support the exhibition; and, what should be kept in mind or considered. The small group was composed of Berlin residents with professional backgrounds in marketing, data & community management, policy & public programmes, and impact strategy. The group also included both international & native residents, residents, different age groups, and those with/without children and local relatives.

The lunch talk provided valuable contributions on how to design and run the exhibitions in order to have the most impact. These included recommendations to ensure there are (majority) FLINTA\* – identifying persons in the design and running of the exhibitions and to be transparent about who has developed the exhibition; to consider local initiatives and groups for collaborations, such as local women's entrepreneur forums; to invite local changemakers to show what leadership is today; to ensure the content is relatable and prompts reflection; to use multimedia to engagement different target groups; create content that prompts organic-sharing on online platforms; include an intergenerational

perspective, such as though a panel or talks; to include interactive playful elements in the exhibitions; and other thoughtful suggestions.

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