EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	The Culture is cool : Cultivating the diversity of cultures - the basis for a common future
Participant:	Društvo za razvijanje prostovoljnega dela Novo mesto
PIC number:	946969873

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number :	1		
Event name:	INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “THE CULTURE IS COOL”		
Type:	Conference		
In situ/online:	In situ		
Location:	Novo mesto, Slovenia		
Date(s):	18. – 20. 6. 2026		
Website(s) (if any):			
Participants			
Female:	174		
Male:	112		
Non-binary:	5		
From country 1 [Slovenia]:	159		
From country 2 [Italy]:	3		
From country 3 [Serbia]:	10		
From country 4 [Croatia]:	60		
From country 5 [Bosnia and Herzegovina]:	52		
From country 6 [Montenegro]:	3		
From country 7 [Hungary]:	4		
Total number of participants:	291	From total number of countries:	7
Description *Provide a short description of the event and its activities.*			

The international conference **"The Culture is cool: Cultivating the diversity of cultures – the basis for a common future"** successfully brought together **291 participants from seven European countries** — Slovenia, Italy, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Hungary. The event connected representatives of partner organisations, young people, local stakeholders, cultural actors and members of the local community, creating a dynamic space for intercultural dialogue, mutual learning and the development of future cooperation.

The conference demonstrated that cultural diversity is not only a topic for discussion, but a living resource that can strengthen mutual understanding, solidarity and active citizenship. Through plenary sessions, interactive workshops, a strategic partner meeting, a museum visit, the public "Week of Cultures", an international market, geocaching and cultural performances, participants explored how culture can overcome stereotypes and build bridges between different communities, generations and countries.

Particular emphasis was placed on the inclusion of young people, children and local citizens. The "Week of Cultures" transformed the main square of Novo mesto into a meeting point of different cultures, where conference participants joined the local community in experiencing European diversity first-hand. The geocaching activity "Treasure Hunt of European Diversity" encouraged children and young people to discover cultural diversity through play, while traditional dance groups, live concerts and the international market made the event accessible, visible and engaging for the wider public.

The event also strengthened cooperation between civil society organisations, municipalities and local communities from EU Member States and Western Balkan countries. During the strategic workshop, partners identified common priorities and opportunities for future joint initiatives, while the final signing of the **Memorandum of Cooperation** established a concrete framework for continued collaboration beyond the duration of the project.

The conference contributed to greater awareness of European values, intercultural dialogue, gender equality and social inclusion. With the participation of **174 women, 112 men and 5 non-binary participants**, the event brought together diverse voices and perspectives, while the strong involvement of participants from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina further highlighted the importance of cross-border cooperation and shared European identity.

The event opened on Thursday, 18 June 2026, with the arrival and registration of international partners, followed by lunch and the official opening. The coordinator presented the objectives of the CERV project, the partner organisations and the city of Novo mesto, emphasising the importance of cultural diversity as a shared European resource and the role of local communities in building mutual understanding. The opening was followed by the plenary session **"Nurturing cultural diversity – the foundation of a shared future"**, which addressed intercultural dialogue, European identity, solidarity and the importance of creating inclusive spaces where different cultures, generations and communities can meet and cooperate.

In the afternoon, participants took part in two interactive workshops: **"Overcoming Stereotypes and Promoting European Solidarity Through Culture"** and **"The Power of Art in Intercultural Dialogue"**. Through discussions, group work and creative methods, participants explored how stereotypes and prejudices are formed, how culture can challenge them, and how artistic expression can create opportunities for dialogue between people of different backgrounds. Special attention was given to the experiences of young people, minority communities and groups at risk of exclusion. The day concluded with a networking session, during which partners exchanged good practices from their countries and discussed possible forms of future cooperation.

On Friday, 19 June 2026, the programme continued with a strategic workshop entitled **"Planning future joint initiatives and project sustainability"**. Representatives of the seven partner organisations discussed the continuation of cooperation beyond the current project, identified common priorities and explored concrete opportunities for future joint initiatives. The discussion focused on strengthening partnerships between civil society organisations, municipalities, schools, cultural institutions and local communities, as well as on the importance of involving young people in decision-making processes. The workshop also addressed dissemination, visibility of EU funding and the transfer of project methods into the everyday work of partner organisations.

In the afternoon, participants visited the exhibition at the Dolenjska Museum, which offered an opportunity to learn about the cultural heritage of the Dolenjska region and to reflect on the role of museums and cultural institutions in preserving and presenting diverse cultural identities. The visit was followed by the main public event, **"Week of Cultures"**, held in the main square of Novo mesto. The

event was open to the wider local community and created a lively meeting point between conference participants, local residents, children, young people and families.

The “Week of Cultures” included an international market with stalls offering traditional food and drinks from the different ethnic and cultural communities living in Novo mesto. Participants also took part in the geocaching activity **“Treasure Hunt of European Diversity”**, an interactive game in which children and young people used digital clues to discover hidden treasures at the stalls of the partner countries. The activity encouraged curiosity, teamwork and learning about European diversity in an accessible and engaging way. The cultural programme featured traditional dance groups and live concerts, while conference participants joined local citizens in experiencing cultural diversity first-hand. The day ended with a festive dinner for participants at the festival venue.

On Saturday, 20 June 2026, the conference concluded with an evaluation session and closing discussion. Partners reviewed the main results of the event, shared feedback from participants and agreed on reporting and dissemination activities. The evaluation highlighted the value of combining formal conference sessions with interactive workshops, public cultural activities and informal networking opportunities. Participants emphasised that the event strengthened their understanding of intercultural dialogue, European values and the importance of long-term international cooperation.

The final activity was a celebratory event on the Rudolf raft, including a panoramic cruise along the Krka River, live music showcasing the musical heritage of the Dolenjska region, and the official signing ceremony of the **Memorandum of Cooperation** among all partner countries. The Memorandum establishes a framework for future cooperation and joint initiatives, ensuring that the partnerships and networks created during the project will continue beyond its formal duration. The conference ended with a farewell lunch on the raft, after which participants departed.

The event successfully connected international partners with the local community and transformed cultural diversity from an abstract topic into a shared, lived experience. Through workshops, debates, artistic activities, the international market, geocaching and public cultural performances, participants were encouraged to move from passive observers to active promoters of intercultural understanding, European solidarity and inclusive local communities. The conference also strengthened cooperation between organisations from EU Member States and Western Balkan countries, contributing to a stronger sense of European identity and shared values.

Consistent with the project’s objectives, particular attention was given to gender equality, intergenerational cooperation and the inclusion of young people, children and groups at risk of social exclusion. The event provided a safe and accessible space for dialogue, enabled participants to exchange experiences and good practices, and created concrete opportunities for future cooperation. The strong participation of the local community, especially during the “Week of Cultures”, ensured a significant multiplier effect and increased the visibility of the project, the CERV programme and the values of democracy, inclusion and European cooperation.

Schedule:

THURSDAY, 18.6.2026

- Morning: Arrival of international partners and registration. Lunch.
- 13:30 – 14:30: Official Opening: Welcome address by the coordinator and presentation of the CERV project’s objectives. Presentation of the organization and the city of Novo mesto.
- 14:30 – 15:30: Plenary session: "Nurturing cultural diversity – the foundation of a shared future".
- 15:30 – 16:00: Lunch break.
- 16:00 – 18:30: Interactive workshops: "Overcoming Stereotypes and Promoting European Solidarity Through Culture" and “The Power of Art in Intercultural Dialogue”.
- 18:30 – 19:00: Networking: Exchange of best practices from partner countries.
- 19:30: Dinner.

FRIDAY, 19.6.2026

- 9:30 – 12:30: Strategic workshop: Planning future joint initiatives and project sustainability.
- 13:00 – 14:30 PM: Lunch break.
- 14:30 – 16:00: Tour of the exhibition at the Dolenjska Museum.
- From 16:00 onwards:
    - MAIN EVENT: “Week of Cultures” – Main Square

- International Market: Stalls offering traditional food and drinks from all ethnic groups living in Novo Mesto.
- Geocaching – "Treasure Hunt of European Diversity": An interactive activity in the town square where participants (with a strong emphasis on the involvement of youth and children) use digital clues to search for "hidden treasures" at the stalls of the partner countries.
- Cultural program: traditional dance groups and live concerts.
- Conference participants join the local community to experience diversity firsthand.

- 19:30: Festive dinner for participants: organized at the festival venue.

SATURDAY, 20.6.2026

- 9:00 – 11:00: Evaluation and Conclusions: Closing discussion and reporting guidelines.
- 11:30 – 14:30: CELEBRATORY EVENT ON THE RUDOLF RAFT:
  - Panoramic cruise: A ride along the picturesque meander of the Krka River.
  - LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCE: An acoustic concert by a local band showcasing the region's musical heritage.
  - SIGNING CEREMONY: Official signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation among all partner countries.
  - Farewell lunch on the raft: Traditional Dolenjska lunch during the cruise.
- 15:00: Departure of participants.

Media Coverage and Social Networks

- https://www.nevladnik.info/si/novice/?id=19327
- https://www.facebook.com/drpdnminternational/posts/1039301948743492
- https://www.instagram.com/p/DZ5D4yXCOot/
- https://lnkd.in/p/dKxAM2gd
- https://lnkd.in/p/eixsWPzi
- https://www.lag-prizag.hr/simfonija-osjetila-hrvatska-istrazuje-okuse-i-zvukove-svijeta/
- https://www.udruzenjetriglav.com/en/events/1379-ucestvovali-smo-u-eu-projektu-kultura-je-kul
- Article published in Nevski portal on 25/06/2026
- https://www.lag-prizag.hr/provedena-radionica-u-sklopu-projekta-the-culture-is-cool/
- https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069629331977&locale=hr_HR
- https://www.nevladnik.info/si/novice/?id=19325
- https://www.lighthouselanguages.it/en/culture-is-cool/
- https://udruzenjetriglav.com/en/events/1379-we-participated-in-the-eu-project-culture-is-cool
- https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid02Hh8UR1ykj9HRet3mBneJ5G7LaT2frnR63bgv5ys4Pk15Bway6PCL6HZukyBBY7c7l&id=100069629331977
- https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid02HVmibwVCBPcVU8kRegtSkVEUsu79nwougQ4pjnK6sYcJzmMvaadKSRHTpEYttQH7l&id=100069629331977
- https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid021xF1Yv9eVCchwKcEuH7LDqe6NQy1tqgKTALYBBCv4RDqJbMTdzjh4Z6BZKFTk3Pzl&id=100069629331977
- https://www.dunav1245.org/en/2026/09/07/a-multiplier-event-was-held-within-the-project-the-culture-is-cool/

Conclusion

The main message of the event remains clear: **culture is a powerful tool for building inclusive communities and a common European future**. By connecting people from seven countries through dialogue, creativity, cultural exchange and joint action, "The Culture is cool" strengthened trust, friendship and cooperation among participants and created a solid foundation for future initiatives in Novo mesto and across Europe.

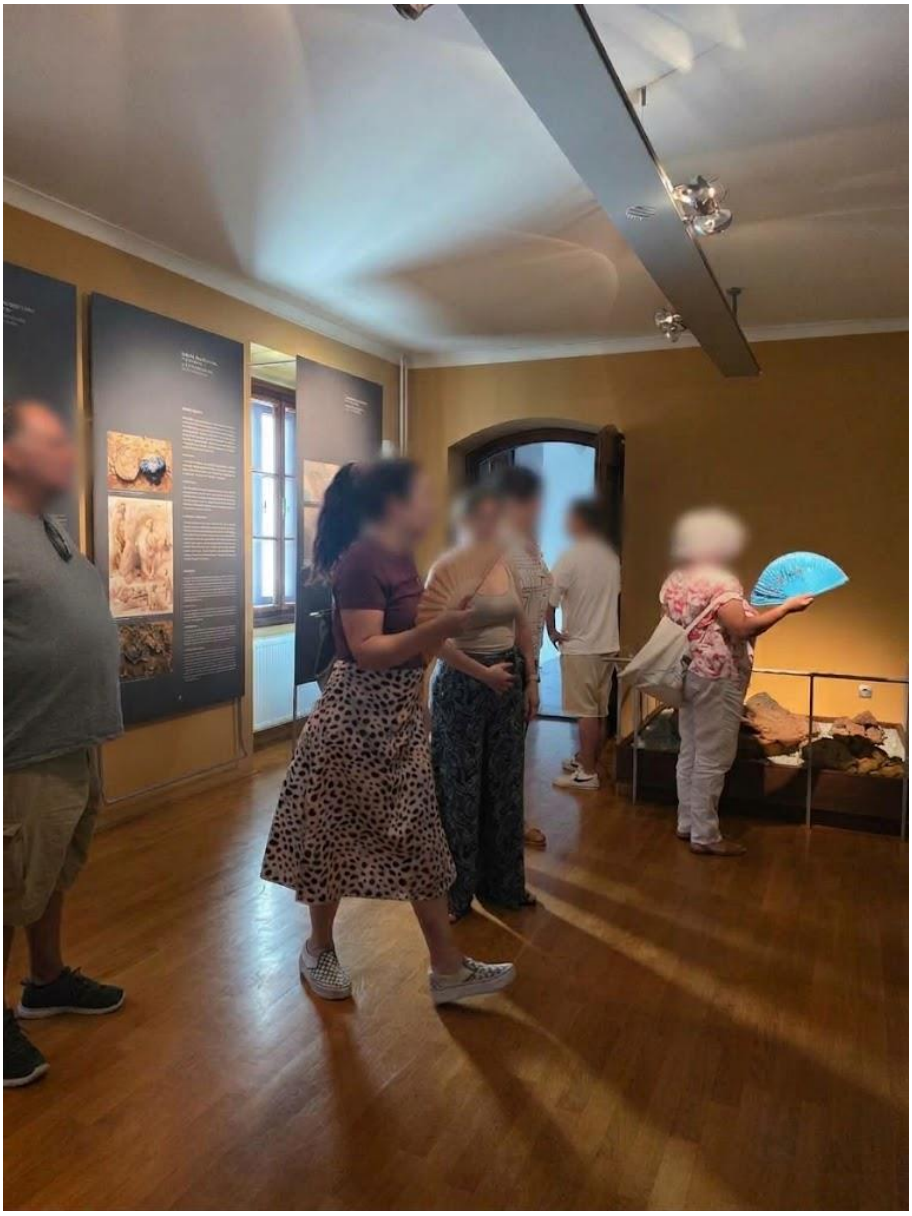







CULTURE IS COOL!
INTERNATIONAL
EVENT
DRUGI
PARTNERJI
CERV
PROJEKT
2


11
ALBANSKA
KULTURA





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