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	
Participant:	Viljandi, Ternopil, Kretinga, Valmiera
PIC number:	892554134
Project name and acronym:	How to manage local municipality during crisis and war and preserve EU values and democracy - Together stronger

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	1
Event name:	Meetings in Viljandi
Type:	workshop
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Ukraine-Ternopil, Estonia - Viljandi
Date(s):	17.-23.09.2025
Website(s) (if any):	https://viljandi.ee/viljandi-delegatsioon-osales-oppereisil-ternopilis/ https://viljandi.ee/koostooprojekt-together-stronger/
Participants	
Female:	47
Male:	39
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Estonia]:	45
From country 2 [Ukraine]:	30
From country 3 [Lithuania]:	5
From country 4 [Latvia]:	6

Total number of participants:	86	From total number of countries:	4

Description
Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Day 1 – 19.09.2025

Inclusive education, social inclusion and EU project culture

1. Visit to SA Perekodu (Family Home Foundation)
   o Presentation of support services and education for people with special needs.
   o Discussion on inclusion, accessibility, individual support and non-discrimination in local social policy.
2. Workshop on writing EU projects
   o Practical session on how to design and write EU-funded projects (including CERV and other programmes).
   o Emphasis on:
     ▪ Integrating gender equality and non-discrimination;
     ▪ Ensuring participation of youth, elderly and marginalised groups;
     ▪ Transparency and accountability in project management.
3. Visit to Viljandi Vocational Education Centre (VIKK) – VET reform
   o Presentation of the vocational education reform in Estonia.
   o Discussion on lifelong learning, labour market needs and equal opportunities for girls and boys in VET.
4. Visit to Mängupesa Kindergarten – early childhood education best practices
   o Focus on:
     ▪ Renovation and learning environment;
     ▪ Shelter/secure space as part of crisis preparedness;
     ▪ Child-centred and inclusive pedagogical approaches.
5. Visit to the University of Tartu Viljandi Culture Academy (TÜ VKA)
   o Exchange on higher education, culture and community engagement.
   o Discussion on how universities support democratic values, creativity, cultural diversity and youth participation.

This day highlights inclusive education, participation of vulnerable groups, equal opportunities and capacity-building for EU-funded civic projects, all central to CERV.

Day 2 – 20.09.2025

Modern education, health, and mini-hackathon on open governance

1. Visit to Olustvere School of Service and Rural Economics (Vocational education – part II)
   o Deepening the understanding of modern vocational training, rural development and youth opportunities.
   o Discussion on how VET can support social inclusion and equal opportunities in regional areas.
2. Modern healthcare – visit to the newly built hospital in Viljandi
   o Presentation of the hospital building, equipment and organisation of care.
   o Focus on patient-centred care, accessibility, digitalisation and crisis preparedness.
3. Seminar at Viljandi State Gymnasium – general education and personalised learning
   o Topics:
     ▪ Individual learning paths;
     ▪ Use of AI in teaching and learning;
     ▪ Civic education and critical thinking as tools to defend democracy and EU values.
4. Mini-hackathon: "Open, transparent and citizen-centred municipalities"
   o Participants from Viljandi, Valmiera, Kretinga and Ternopil work in mixed teams.
   o Hackathon themes include:
     ▪ How municipalities can implement participatory democracy in practice;
     ▪ Ensuring corruption-free and transparent decision-making and budgeting;
     ▪ Strengthening cooperation between municipalities and NGOs;
     ▪ Involving young people and the elderly in planning and monitoring local policies;
     ▪ Using EU funds effectively and transparently at local level.

o Expected outputs:
  ▪ Simple prototypes or action plans (e.g. digital participation platform, participatory budgeting model, community information strategy, youth and seniors' councils);
  ▪ Concrete ideas that Ternopil and Baltic partners can pilot after the project.

Day 2 is directly connected to democratic participation, good governance, anti-corruption, and civic engagement, as well as digital tools for democracy and intergenerational participation.

Day 3 – 21.09.2025

Citizens' contribution to defence, youth and senior participation, final reflection

1. Visit to Sakala Defence League unit (Sakala malev)
   o Presentation of the role of active citizens in national defence, values, training and civic responsibility.
   o Discussion on how democratic societies organise defence based on voluntary participation and respect for human rights.
2. Youth work workshop and meeting with Viljandi Youth Council
   o Exchange on youth work structures, methods and funding.
   o Youth Council presents how young people (14–26) participate in local decision-making, co-create policies and monitor municipal actions.
   o Discussion on how Ternopil can further involve youth in local and national politics and in community life.
3. Meeting with Viljandi Pensioners' Association and Social Department
   o Presentation of how seniors influence city development, budget priorities and social policy through representative bodies.
   o Exchange on active ageing, volunteering and intergenerational solidarity.
4. Final reflection and closing
   o Joint session summarising lessons from Viljandi and Ternopil visits.
   o Identification of:
     ▪ Short-term measures for Ternopil (e.g. quick wins in citizen participation, communication, crisis planning);
     ▪ Medium-term actions (development of systems, procedures, cooperation platforms);
     ▪ Long-term vision: Ternopil as a municipality with European-style leadership, active citizens (women and men, young and old) and equal opportunities.
   o Agreement on follow-up steps and responsibilities for drafting the final report and dissemination materials.

The last day strongly supports active citizenship, intergenerational and cross-generational dialogue, defence of democracy and EU values, and the inclusion of youth and elderly in local public life.

4. Contribution to CERV priorities and target groups

Across all days and activities, the project:

- Supports EU values, democracy and the rule of law by examining how municipalities uphold transparency, participation and accountability in both normal and crisis conditions.
- Strengthens democratic participation and civic engagement through youth councils, seniors' councils, NGOs, volunteers and citizen initiatives, and through practical hackathons.
- Promotes equality and non-discrimination by focusing on inclusive education, healthcare, social services and access to decision-making for women and men, young people, elderly, persons with disabilities and people with different cultural backgrounds.
- Builds solidarity with Ukraine and supports its European integration path, using practical municipal-level cooperation.

Key target groups who benefit directly are:

- Young people (approx. 14–26) – gaining awareness of how their European peers act as active citizens and learning concrete tools to participate in local and national politics.
- Elderly people – seeing models of senior participation in voluntary organisations and representative bodies that influence city development and social policy.
- Municipal leaders and staff – understanding how participatory democracy is implemented in European cities, and how to organise transparent, corruption-free decision-making and budgeting.
- Education and culture professionals – learning from Baltic education reforms and cultural policies, including how to safeguard education and cultural life in times of crisis.
- Civil society activists and volunteers (NGOs) – strengthening their role as partners of municipalities in developing local policies and services.

This structured, day-by-day programme ensures that all activities are directly connected to the CERV programme priorities and that the project's short-, medium- and long-term impacts are clearly oriented towards more open, resilient, inclusive and democratic municipalities in the EU and in Ukraine.

Preparation of the final report (Viljandi's responsibility, partners' cooperation)

Purpose: Viljandi prepares a comprehensive final report that summarizes the results and impact of the project. The final report must be structured and informative so that it can serve as a learning tool for every city in the European Union or candidate country that wants to implement the solutions developed during the project.

Contents:

1. Summary of project activities and results.

2. Analysis of the impact of the project at the local and cross-border level.

3. Conclusions of hackathons and seminars and recommendations for further activities.

4. Practical instructions and recommendations for other cities and municipalities.

5. Overview of project partners' cooperation and best practices.

6. Recommendations for the initiation of new projects and the implementation of follow-up activities.

5. Distribution and use of the final report:

Objective: The final report and the results of the project will be widely disseminated to ensure their usefulness and impact in other European Union cities and candidate countries. Viljandi ensures that the report is available to all parties and municipalities who could learn from it and apply the knowledge gained in their local context. Separate focus is also placed on the fact that the report would be a useful guidance material for local NGOs and civic initiatives that want to improve cooperation with the local government.

Summary: Focuses on project completion and evaluation, providing valuable insights and practical guidance not only to project partners, but also to other EU cities and municipalities. Evaluation of the project's impact and preparation of the final report ensure that the results of the project remain and can be used in future initiatives and projects focused on strengthening gender equality, non-discrimination and civil society.

Online web-hackathon on follow-up projects (5 December 2025)

On 5 December 2025, an online web-hackathon was organised with the participation of all project partners (Viljandi, Valmiera, Kretinga and Ternopil).

Purpose:

To generate concrete follow-up project ideas that build on the results, best practices and needs identified during the study visits, seminars and mini-hackathons.

To ensure sustainability and continuation of the project's impact beyond the funding period, fully in line with CERV priorities on EU values, democracy, gender equality and non-discrimination.

Format and methodology:

The web-hackathon was held on an online platform, bringing together municipal representatives, youth workers, senior representatives, educators and NGO activists from all partner cities.

The session started with a short recap of project results and key lessons learned (Ternopil under war conditions, Baltic best practices in open governance, education and citizen participation).

Participants were then divided into mixed thematic groups (e.g. youth participation, seniors and social inclusion, transparent local governance, education and culture, civil protection and resilience).

Each group used collaborative online tools (shared documents/boards) to:

Identify remaining challenges in their field;

Develop draft ideas for new joint projects (e.g. CERV, Erasmus+, Interreg or other EU/national programmes);

Define potential lead partners, target groups, expected impact and links to EU values and non-discrimination.

Outputs:

Several follow-up project concepts were generated, for example: projects on digital tools for citizen participation and participatory budgeting; youth democracy labs and intergenerational dialogue initiatives; continued cooperation on inclusive education and support for children and young people affected by war; capacity-building for Ukrainian municipalities on transparent and corruption-free governance.

The most promising ideas were briefly pitched in plenary, and partners agreed on next steps for proposal development and possible funding sources.

Link to the final report and CERV priorities:

The results of the 5 December web-hackathon are integrated into the final report, especially in: section on recommendations for the initiation of new projects and follow-up activities; sustainability and continuation chapter, where concrete future cooperation paths are described.

The web-hackathon demonstrates that the project not only delivered short-term results, but also catalysed long-term, value-based cooperation between EU municipalities and a Ukrainian partner city, reinforcing democracy, equality, civic engagement and resilience at local level.