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EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	GSECCPUG - Grow, Share, Engage! Cultivating Civic Participation through Urban Gardens
Participant:	Comune di Narni (Italy)
PIC number:	936987021

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	[7]
Event name:	Sustainable Practices and Innovation - "Green Futures Lab"
Type:	Project meeting, debates, study visits, workshops and cultural exchange
In situ/online:	In situ
Location:	Narni, Italy
Date(s):	May 7-10, 2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.comune.narni.tr.it/novita/avvisi/progetto-europeo-grow-share-engage-cultivating-civic-participation-through-urban
Participants	
Female:	17
Male:	14
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Spain]:	2 Male, 1 Female
From country 2 [Bulgaria]:	2 Male

From country 3 [Greece]:	2 Male, 1 Female		
From country 4 [Hungary]:	1 Male, 2 Female		
From country 5 [Italy]:	7 Male, 7 Female		
From country 6 [Poland]:	2 Female		
From country 7 [Portugal]:	2 Female		
From country 8 [Romania]:	2 Female		
Total number of participants:	31	From total number of countries:	8

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

1. Purpose and Relevance to Project Objectives

The event was designed to translate the objectives of Work Package 7 into a place-based learning and exchange experience. WP7 seeks to promote innovative and experimental practices for sustainable urban gardening, engage communities in the co-design of green solutions, and develop demonstration sites and living laboratories through which sustainable approaches can be tested, observed and replicated.

The activities in Narni were therefore relevant not only as study visits, but also as practical examples of how green spaces can support environmental protection, education, social inclusion, well-being and civic participation. The Green Living Laboratories demonstrated the active involvement of young people and educational institutions in the design of sustainable spaces. The experiences of Stifone, Parco Rifugio San Crispino and ASP Beata Lucia showed how environmental projects can be integrated with community welfare, inclusive services, cultural heritage and shared governance.

The meeting also contributed to the broader objectives of GSECCPUG by facilitating knowledge exchange among European municipalities and organisations, strengthening the capacity of local actors, and encouraging the adaptation of good practices to different territorial contexts. The project considers urban gardens not merely as physical green areas, but as instruments for social interaction, intercultural dialogue, environmental education, youth leadership and cooperation between local authorities and communities. The Narni programme reflected this integrated approach by connecting technological and landscape innovation with civic responsibility, local identity and community empowerment.

2. Detailed Programme and Activities

Day 1 –May 7th, 2026: Arrival and Welcome

- 10:00–18:00 – Participant arrival at Narni City Center and accommodation
- 19:30 – Check in, room assignment
- 20:30 – Welcome Dinner (Ristorante La Loggia)

Day 2 – May 8th, 2026: WP7 Core activities

- 09:30 10:30– Walking tour of the hamlet of Stifone in the Nera Gorges

The main aim of this activity is to present the case study of Stifone as a best practice in circular economy and sustainable development. Nestled within the emerald landscape of the Nera Gorges, a protected Natura 2000 site, the ancient village of Stifone serves as a profound example of the harmonious integration between natural preservation and industrial heritage. Renowned for the unique turquoise hues of its waters, the site has been transformed into a living laboratory for sustainable development through the "Stifone and its Gorges" project. The Public Administration of Narni has implemented a pioneering model of shared Administration and stewardship, moving beyond traditional governance to establish "Collaboration Pacts" with the local community and social cooperative. Our guided tour will lead participants through a journey of "slow tourism," emphasizing green mobility along the repurposed former railway line that now serves as a scenic cycling and pedestrian path. A central highlight of the visit is the "G. Fortunati" Visitor Center, a former mill that now functions as a hub for environmental education and community welfare.

- 10:30 – 12:00 - Presentation of the outcomes of the Green Living Laboratories

Inspired by the GSECCPUG Project, the Municipality of Narni started a collaboration with the local high school Istituto Istruzione Superiore Narni Scalo Gandhi to engage two classes of students in a hands-on project of green design. With the support of a professional studio of Landscape Architects (Paesaggi Umbri), the students took part in a series of lectures on urban gardens with the objective of renovating two areas in the premise of the School and converting them into state-of-the-art green spaces. A team composed of professional architects and young practitioners presented the project to the participants.

- 12:30 – 15 – Lunch (Mulino Eroli)
- 15:00 – 16:30 – Visit of Parco Rifugio San Crispino

Visit to animal shelter and pet-therapy hub Parco Rifugio San Crispino with a tour of the inclusive urban garden.

- 16:30 – 18:00 – Tour of Paesaggi Umbri HQ

Participants joined a talk about national and international best practices in green innovation hosted in the HQ of the green design studio Paesaggi Umbri.

- 19:30 – Dinner (Osteria Le Stranezze)

Day 3 – May 9th, 2026: WP7 Core activities

- 09:00 – 11:30 – Guided Tour of the Beata Lucia

Ex-orphanage named after Blessed Lucia, the structure served for centuries as a place of refuge and care for abandoned orphans, gradually becoming a vital point of reference for the community. Today, the Public Service Agency Beata Lucia, while

preserving its mission of supporting individuals through facilities that host minors and mothers with children, also houses on its premises various social welfare services. The agency now seeks to make known to the public its vast cultural heritage, which until now has remained a hidden treasure within the city's landscape. Participants joined a guided tour hosted by the residents of the structure and got the chance to explore the Grand Tour heritage of Narni and the local urban garden cultivated by the residents of the ASP Beata Lucia.

- 11:30 – 13:00 – Hands-on workshop

Participants had the opportunity of learning how to prepare Manfricoli, a local variety of pasta, in an interactive and informal hands-on experience.

- 13:00 – 15:00 – Lunch (Altravista caffè)
- 14:30 – 16:30 – Visit to Underground Narni
- 16:30 – 18:30 – Free time in Narni
- 19:00 – Dinner (Ristorante I Ghibellini)
- 21:00 – Great Medieval Pageantry

The Ring Race culminates in a solemn medieval pageantry where all the community comes together to honor the local patron Saint Juvenal. Participants had the chance to witness the event from the VIP lounge hosted in the ground floor of Palazzo dei Priori.

Day 4 – May 10th, 2026: Departure

- 10:00–18:00 – Informal closing and departure

3. Conclusion and results

The Narni meeting strengthened cooperation and mutual learning among the project partners by offering direct contact with a range of locally implemented or developing practices. Participants gained practical insights into sustainable landscape design, the regeneration of underused spaces, community-based management, environmental education and the use of green areas for social and therapeutic purposes.

A particularly significant result was the presentation and collective discussion of the Green Living Laboratories involving two classes of local students, landscape professionals and the Municipality of Narni. This initiative provided a concrete example of youth participation in the transformation of school spaces and demonstrated how professional knowledge, public action and student creativity can be combined within a living-laboratory approach.

The event also highlighted the replicability of the models presented. The community stewardship arrangements in Stifone, the inclusive garden at Parco Rifugio San Crispino, the resident-managed garden at ASP Beata Lucia and the school green-design initiative offered different but complementary approaches that partners may adapt to their own local contexts. The exchanges generated knowledge and

observations that can contribute to the WP7 project reports, best-practice guidebook, debating summaries and policy recommendations envisaged by the project.

Overall, the meeting confirmed the value of urban and community gardening as a cross-sectoral instrument capable of connecting environmental sustainability, active citizenship, education, social inclusion and cultural exchange. It reinforced the European partnership and provided a shared basis for further experimentation, dissemination and integration of sustainable gardening practices into local development policies.

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