

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:	Municipality of Kanjiža, Kanjiža
PIC number:	938761539
Project name and acronym:	Kethane- Together: European Network for Roma Inclusion and Building Intercultural understanding

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP9		
Event name:	Roma rights and representation forums		
Type:	Forum		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Serbia, Kanjiza		
Date(s):	July 29, 2026		
Website(s) (if any):			
Participants			
Female:	22		
Male:	3		
Non-binary:	-		
From country 1 [name]:	Serbia		
Total number of participants:	25	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
The forum confirmed that the social inclusion of Roma citizens in the local community is progressing, although important challenges remain. In the municipality, located in northern Serbia near the Hungarian border, cooperation between local institutions, civil society organisations, schools, and community representatives has contributed to a gradual improvement in the position of the Roma population. Nevertheless, sustainable inclusion requires continuous investment in education, employment, healthcare, housing, and active civic participation. Participants identified education as one of the most significant factors influencing long-term social inclusion. Although access to primary education has improved, the transition to secondary education remains a challenge for many Roma children due to financial constraints, limited family resources, and a lack of motivation resulting from generations of social exclusion. The discussion highlighted the			

importance of mentoring programmes, cooperation between schools and families, and additional educational support in preventing early school dropout.

Employment continues to represent one of the greatest barriers to equal participation in society. Limited qualifications, combined with stereotypes and discrimination in the labour market, reduce employment opportunities for many Roma citizens. Participants emphasised the need for vocational training, lifelong learning opportunities, and stronger cooperation with local employers to improve access to stable employment and increase economic independence.

Access to healthcare has improved in recent years through the work of health mediators, social workers, and awareness-raising campaigns. However, participants noted that preventive healthcare services are still underutilised due to insufficient information, administrative barriers, and a lack of trust in public institutions. Continued outreach activities and health education programmes were recognised as essential for improving health outcomes within the Roma community.

Housing conditions have also improved gradually, although some families continue to face inadequate living conditions and unresolved property issues. Participants agreed that long-term improvements require coordinated action between local authorities, public institutions, and national support programmes.

An important conclusion of the workshops was that the active participation of Roma citizens in local decision-making remains limited. While communication between institutions and the Roma community has become more open, greater efforts are needed to encourage civic engagement, participation in public consultations, and representation in local initiatives. Strengthening trust between the community and public institutions was identified as a key prerequisite for successful integration.

The capacity-building workshops organised within the project demonstrated the value of bringing together representatives of local government, educational institutions, healthcare providers, social services, civil society organisations, and members of the Roma community. Through joint discussions, practical exercises, and the exchange of experiences, participants gained a better understanding of the challenges faced by Roma citizens and identified practical approaches to improving cooperation and service delivery.

The training sessions also strengthened the capacities of professionals working with vulnerable groups by increasing their awareness of inclusive practices, intercultural communication, and participatory approaches. Participants highlighted that regular training and networking opportunities contribute to more effective institutional cooperation and help develop coordinated local responses to the needs of Roma families.

Overall, the forum confirmed that meaningful integration is a gradual process that depends on continuous dialogue, mutual trust, and the active involvement of both institutions and community members. Capacity-building activities, together with sustained local partnerships, represent an important foundation for promoting equal opportunities, protecting the rights of Roma citizens, and fostering their full participation in the social, economic, and cultural life of the community.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	27.07.2026	Initial version (new MFF).

