

## 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>	[52] - European Alternatives Berlin E.V (EA Berlin)
<b>PIC number:</b>	937396167
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	[TransEuropa Assemblies] — [TEA Project]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
<b>Event number:</b>	[6]
<b>Event name:</b>	Transnational Assembly of Feminist Solidarity: Equal Rights for All Women*
<b>Type:</b>	Assembly format – talks, panel discussion & group discussions
<b>In situ/online:</b>	in-situ & online (live-stream)
<b>Location:</b>	Gdansk, Poland
<b>Date(s):</b>	18.03.2023
<b>Website(s) (if any):</b>	<a href="https://euroalter.com/equal-rights-for-all-women-assembly/">https://euroalter.com/equal-rights-for-all-women-assembly/</a>
Participants	
Female:	32
Male:	28
Non-binary:	1
From country 1 [Austria]:	1
From country 2 [Belgium]:	3
From country 3 [Czech Republic]:	3

From country 4 [Finland]:	1		
From country 5 [France]:	1		
From country 6 [Germany]:	5		
From country 7 [Ireland]:	1		
From country 8 [Italy]:	25		
From country 9 [Greece]:	1		
From country 10 [Netherlands]:	2		
From country 11 [Poland]:	18		
Total number of participants:	61	From total number of countries:	11
<b>Description</b>			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The <i>Transnational Assembly of Feminist Solidarity: Equal Rights for All Women*</i>, as part of the <i>EUMANS Congress</i> brought together 95 people (48 female, 41 male, 1 non-binary) from 13 EU countries and in the spirit of transnationalism also a few community members from non-European backgrounds. Targeted at citizens with lower levels of education and those affected by unequal social, gender and migrant rights, the assembly was a rewarding occasion of learning and exchange in Poland (in the face of the upcoming National and European elections). Recruitment for the assembly took place in collaboration with local partners and associations (European Solidarity Centre, Trojmiejska Akcja Kobieta, Fundacja Zatoka, Strajk Kobiet), our event partner EUMANS who organised their annual congress on this weekend in Gdansk and within European Alternatives' community network of activists, academics, artists and civil society actors. The European Solidarity Centre advertised the event publicly to other local partners with access to the target group. Besides, we advertised the event in local media. Participants could join the assembly on-site and online via live-stream.</p> <p>Spread over two days, involving both training, trust building and the deliberative assembly itself, the program was embedded into the EUMANS annual congress (another partner of the TEA project) which also gave opportunities for participants to explore cross-border topics related to transnational social rights.</p> <p><b>Description of the Event/ Content &amp; Methodology</b>  Hosted in the auditorium of the European Solidarity Centre (the museum exhibiting the history of the Polish Solidarnosc movement), the assembly used a more classic format involving two keynotes by Lidka Makowska and Marta Lempart (both representatives of the Polish Women's Strike), a panel, and in-depth group discussions.</p> <p>The event was announced as follows:</p> <p><i>Women in Poland are fighting on the frontlines of the struggles against the far-right, they inspired the feminist movement far beyond Poland with their protests and the All-Poland Women's Strike in recent years. No less, the crises on the Polish-Belarusian border and the Russian war of aggression on Ukraine have shown how strong Polish civil society is, despite its right-wing government, when it comes to welcoming people and caring for each other. However, with the upcoming national elections and the European elections in 2024, we all face the questions together of how to bring together the issues and demands around women's rights, migrants' rights, and social rights and become more powerful together.</i></p>			

*Therefore, on March 18, 2023, leading feminist, queer and migrant activists from Poland will come together at the European Solidarity Centre in Gdansk for a transnational assembly on feminist solidarity. This will not only be another step towards local, national, and transnational community and network building of intersectional feminist struggles. Most importantly, it will also be a collective exercise in strategically reframing issues and demands around gender, migrant and social rights, and reimagining narrative strategies for the right to body self-determination, access to healthcare and social services, and reproductive justice beyond the borders of national origin and place of residence.*

*All feminists are kindly invited. Polish women from Gdansk and other Polish cities and communities will be present, as well as refugees, activists, and organisers from Ukraine, Belarus, and non-European countries, and Polish women from other EU countries. If you are far away from Gdansk, join us via live-stream from wherever you are – as transnational organising is all about being connected beyond borders.*

*This assembly is ultimately also an attempt by the civil society opposition to negotiate a better future and possible avenues to it, strategize on how we can win elections, build a pluralist intersectional feminist movement, and finally also discuss policies improving lives of women, queers, and migrants. Because as long as fundamental, civil and human rights remain negotiable for the Polish right-wing government and the EU is not stopping these unlawful practices, women, queers and migrants have no other choice but to resist and organise alternatives from below...*

Especially, the group discussions led to an intense and fruitful deliberation process on the intersecting dimension of the struggles for social, gender and migrant rights in Poland (intensified not only by the revolutionary process in Belarus, but also since the beginning of the war on Ukraine and many Ukrainians searching for refuge in Poland). Throughout this discussions, it became clear that the transnational dimension of the struggles is especially relevant for a political response on the EU level, as the migration discourse in Eastern European countries like Poland is very problematic and very often civil society feels alone confronting a hostile government towards Polish women\*, refugees, migrants, etc..

A video maker and photographer were present during the assembly to produce social media and other communications content to build awareness around the project.

#### **Participants**

The participants came from 11 EU countries and 2 non-EU countries, and had a diversity of backgrounds. 55% were female or non-binary; around one-third were under the age of 32; another third considered themselves as part of a discriminated group; 25% without further education and 20% precariously employed or unemployed.

Many of the participants are active members of their communities and civil society organisations advocating for social, gender and migrant rights, and therefore brought immediate challenges to the assembly, which informed a fruitful exchange, grounded in lived realities. The target group benefited from the transnational participant community of the assembly, which generated a vivid interaction among the audience and enabled a first-hand experience of transnational democracy. The rather classic format allowed a focus on stories of local actors and the challenges and issues they face, before going into a deeper group discussion on how to support Polish civil society from outside Poland, and how to transnationalise the discourse. Challenges included different levels of English, a variety of backgrounds (not enough knowledge to adequately adapt to context), and a maybe too big community of Italian participants which did not lead to a balanced representation of national perspectives.

#### **Future Activities**

European Alternatives built a substantial community and network on the ground in Gdansk which will not only be invited to future TEA assemblies, but also contacted for future workshops and training on transnational learning among civil society actors. Moreover, actors from Gdansk were invited to our transnational lab for popular, cultural, and social movement educators in Berlin (in June 2023).

#### **Policy Recommendations**

The three policy orientations to be taken forward to the next assemblies (in summary):

- i) promote the discourse about how civil society actors in different European regions can learn from the challenges and solutions others had found already before, for a transnational feminist learning;
- ii) empower refugees and migrants from non-EU countries (Belarus, Ukraine, etc.) to participate in EU policy debates, as they are very often confronted with discrimination even more than natives;
- iii) support civil society actors in regions at risk where right-wing forces and political parties foster a hostile climate towards women\*, migrants, and refugees.

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