

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:	[1] - [Comune di Montecchio]
PIC number:	[880574052]
Project name and acronym:	[Building European Towns] — [BET]

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	[2]		
Event name:	[BET Second International Workshop]		
Type:	[Workshop]		
In situ/online:	[in-situ]		
Location:	[Italy], [Montecchio, Attigliano, Giove, Penna in Teverina]		
Date(s):	[21st-24th august 2025]		
Website(s) (if any):	https://bet98.webnode.it/		
Participants			
Female:	82		
Male:	61		
Non-binary:	2		
From country 1:	Italy		
From country 2:	France		
Total number of participants:	145	From total number of countries:	2
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
BET Second International Workshop took place in Montecchio, Giove, Penna in Teverina and Attigliano (Italy) from 21st to 24th August 2025. It involved the Italian host municipalities and their French partner communities of Treigny, Bléneau, Saint-Sauveur and Saint-Fargeau. The target groups were composed of citizens, public authorities, stakeholders, local NGOs, volunteers and decision-makers. As in the first event, more than 50% of women participated in the target groups, and young people's and women's voices were particularly valued. This contributed to a rich and diverse exchange of opinions, fostering intergenerational, intercultural and cross-sectoral dialogue. The central theme of the second workshop was "Rethinking Rural Communities – A bottom-up approach for the future of rural territories". The conference held in Montecchio represented the European dimension of the project, with discussions focusing on how participatory bottom-up practices			

can strengthen European identity and create more inclusive and sustainable rural communities. The event highlighted the importance of citizens' active involvement, giving space to dialogue between young people, local authorities, associations and civil society.

A crucial moment of the meeting was the signing of new cooperation agreements: the Friendship and Cooperation Pact between Attigliano and Saint-Fargeau and the Letter of Intent between Montecchio and Treigny, which reinforced the twinning dimension of the project and paved the way for future formal agreements.

Beyond the conference, the programme also included cultural visits, such as to the historic village of Melezzole, the necropolis, the Civic Museum and the Oil Museum of Montecchio, and convivial moments shared among delegations and local citizens. These experiences allowed participants to deepen their knowledge of the historical, artistic and social heritage of the territories, while strengthening the ties of friendship between Italian and French communities.

The innovative approach of BET was once again confirmed: by bringing together people of different ages, backgrounds and social contexts, the event enabled reflection on the role of rural municipalities in Europe's future, with a special focus on young people as drivers of change.

The second international event of BET further developed the democratic and participatory dimension of the project by providing citizens with tools and opportunities to engage in European debates from their local realities.

During the workshop and the seminar on the New European Bauhaus, participants explored how sustainability, inclusion, and aesthetics can be applied to small rural towns, ensuring that European values are concretely reflected in local development. The debates enabled citizens to reflect on their needs and aspirations, giving visibility to the role of rural communities in shaping the European project.

Concrete outcomes include:

- Empowerment of local communities through bottom-up dialogue: municipalities and citizens jointly identified ways to integrate traditional heritage and values with European initiatives, proposing innovative models of rural development.
- Active inclusion of youth and women in decision-making: both groups were central in the discussions, ensuring an intergenerational and gender-sensitive perspective on the future of rural Europe.
- Strengthened European identity and sense of belonging: citizens recognized themselves as part of the Union by linking everyday challenges of rural life to European policies such as the Green Deal, Rural Vision and New European Bauhaus.
- Institutional commitments: the signing of a Letter of Intent between Montecchio and Treigny and a Friendship Agreement between Attigliano and Saint-Fargeau reinforced the long-term sustainability of cooperation and the translation of dialogue into concrete action.

The event has therefore contributed to the expected outcomes of the Town-Twinning programme by empowering citizens, fostering intercultural and intergenerational dialogue, and creating a stronger sense of ownership of the European project in small rural towns.

To sum up, the Second International Workshop gave continuity to the debates initiated in France, fostering the exchange of good practices and bottom-up recommendations, while empowering small towns to become active players in the European project. The event confirmed BET's mission: to strengthen European identity in small rural communities, to build long-lasting cooperation networks, and to promote resilient, inclusive and sustainable societies.

Agenda of activities:

21 AUGUST – Arrival and Welcome

- Aperitif and lunch together in Attigliano
- Visit of the historic centre of Melezzole
- Visit to the church in the woods
- Dinner together

22 AUGUST – Culture and Celebration in Montecchio

- Visit to the Necropolis, the Oil Museum and the Civic Museum in Montecchio
- Lunch in Tenaglie
- Conference at the Montecchio Library: "Rethinking Rural Communities – A bottom-up approach for the future of rural territories"

- Seminar on the New European Bauhaus

- Dinner in Montecchio

23 AUGUST – Free Day in the Municipalities

- Each group will take part in the activities proposed by its host municipality

24 AUGUST – Departure

Press articles:

<https://bet98.cms.webnode.it/column/>

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