

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	2 - Grad Gradiska - Grad Gradiska
PIC number:	885082224
Project name and acronym:	From Rome to Union: Exploring Our Common Roots – FRUECR

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	2		
Event name:	Roman Festival		
Type:	Festival		
In situ/online:	<i>In-situ</i>		
Location:	Gradiška, Bosnia and Herzegovina		
Date(s):	30.8. – 1.9.2024		
Website(s) (if any):			
Participants			
Female:	132		
Male:	122		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 Slovenia	104		
From country 2 Bosnia and Herzegovina	150		
Total number of participants:	254	From total number of countries:	2
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>We organized a three-day Roman festival event in Gradiška, which started on Friday August 30, 2024, and ended on Sunday September 1, 2024. It was attended by 104 foreign participants from the city of Ptuj (Slovenia) with the aim of strengthening cooperation between the city of Ptuj and the city of Gradiška. There were representatives from the city administration of Ptuj, management of Ptuj museum, the tourism organization, local action group, high school and local associations that</p>			

preserve Roman history. All age groups were represented. The youngest participant was 7 years old, and the oldest was 81 years old.

The participants from Slovenia arrived to Gradiška in the afternoon. After the kind reception organized by host, there was organized guided city tour. In the evening, all participants enjoyed social gathering, where they continue discussion started in Ptuj on the formation of Roman stories linked to Gradiška 2000 years ago, when Gradiška was a large Roman river port. We mapped out the main points for the development of stories on the themes of river transport, vessels and crafts.

We plan to prepare reconstructions of vessels on a smaller scale to make them suitable for transport and exhibitions in Ptuj and other cities in the next few years. Second, we will cooperate on designing and making traditional Roman dresses for using on Roman festival in Gradiška, where skilled artisans from Ptuj will help their counterparts in Gradiška at design and sewing techniques. Dresses will were festival visitors, which will make festival more appealing and interesting.

Ptuj will help to implement the production of Roman ceramics, and Gradiška will take care of the production of honey and honey products, as honey production is highly developed due to the unspoilt nature. Honey was the only sweetener in Roman times and was very important in the culinary art. Replicas of Roman beehives will be made and set up in Gradiška and Ptuj.

On the second day, all participants gather in the main city park, where city mayor welcomed the participants from Slovenia and wished great festival to all. City officials and representatives from both organizers were meeting on defining further collaboration between city of Gradiška and Ptuj. They defined main priorities of future cooperation, which are basis to prepare a Letter of Intent. They concluded that Letter of Intent should include basic guidelines for cooperation and the intent to continue exchanging experiences at festivals in the coming years.

The meeting were observing also representatives of regional capital – City of Banja Luka. They express a strong intent to join the initiative of cooperation between City of Ptuj and City of Gradiška in 2025. They would like to host a Roman Festival and start cooperation with City of Ptuj. They proposed to change the Sunday program a bit. They offer us a visit to Banja Luka and offer us facility for conducting our agenda.

After the meeting, all participants from both countries were actively engaged in the Roman festival in Gradiška. There were also organized a meeting with members of local associations mainly to get to know each other and to get some potential ideas for further cooperation. Local and regional media (TV, radio and newspapers) cover the event.

On the third day, we go to city of Banja Luka where the host organize a quick city tour. They took us to the central fortress, which dates back to Roman times. It is a perfect location for hosting the roman festival The central event space can be easily transformed into a Roman theatre, adding to the attractiveness of the event. Team from Ptuj and Gradiška intensively shared knowledge with the host. With the representatives of regional capital City of Banja Luka was agreed to start cooperation next year. They are invited to both festivals in Ptuj and Gradiška and

local groups from Ptuj and Gradiška are willing to participate on their first local festival. There is a plan to present a Roman culture and habits in their fortress in the beginning of September 2025.

In the early afternoon, we had a wrap up session, where some good practices were exchanged. We have identified three crafts that we will develop in the coming years. The production of Roman ceramics is completely unknown in Gradiška. Potters from Ptuj will transfer good practices and knowledge to potters in Gradiška and the surrounding area through workshops in early 2025. They set goal that by autumn 2025, they will produce a batch of Roman ceramics, which they will use at the Roman dinner at festival. Afterwards, the visitors can purchase it.

Next year, a workshop on Roman dressmaking is planned in Gradiška, where experts from Ptuj will bring samples of the dresses and patterns, as well as guidelines for colours and materials. Local tailors will make at least 200 Roman dresses for the festival by autumn 2025.

The honey producers showed a strong intent to cooperate. They see opportunity at producing a series of honey products packaged in ceramic cups. They will also produce replicas of Roman beehives.

The Event Description sheet (EDS) is published on the web pages of both project partners :

- Društvo Poetovio LXIX - <https://rimskeigre.si/projekti/#projekt4>
- Municipality of Gradiška - <https://www.gradgradiska.com/?s=aventure>

and on Municipality of Ptuj web page: <https://www.ptuj.si/objava/966392>

Beside EDS is published also video, which was produced only for the purpose of this project as a dissemination activity.

The event has a strong media coverage in the national and local media. Some of the publication are listed on the links below:

- National TV : https://youtu.be/a_QgsG_WFAc
- National TV: <https://youtu.be/cxB8T7bouAw>
- National news: <https://www.seerspska.com/kultura/vise-od-300-ucesnika-na-rimskom-festivalu-aventure-gradiska-31-8-2024>
- <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/sk58k6FTPFE6G6Ut/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1EuYWWBy9k9UEZcu/>
- https://www.instagram.com/p/C_VTK8WNbab/?igsh=MTE3OTdlbG5qeWU0cg==