

Roma Influencers Festival Portugal Report

WP5 Act 5.2 Roma Influencers Festivals in 4 Countries

Event date

04 September 2026

Venue

Centro de Desenvolvimento Comunitário da Ameixoeira, Lisbon

Reporting partners

Cooperactiva

Reporting date

23/09/2026



Influencers from Roma communities breaking the cycle of early marriage and motherhood

Contents

- 1. Introduction3
- 2. Promotional materials.....5
 - 2.1. Invitation and programme.....5
 - 2.2. Poster11
 - 2.3. Banner.....11
 - 2.4. Roll ups12
 - 2.5. Woven bags.....13
- 3. Programme and festival implementation14
- 4. Participants and attendance15
- 5. Photo documentation.....16
- 6. Annexes.....19
 - Annex 1 Signed participants list19

1. Introduction

This report documents the Roma Influencers Festival organised in Portugal under WP5, Activity 5.2 of the Roma Influencers Network project. The activity provides a national space for a photo exhibition, documentary screenings and discussion, bringing project results into dialogue with public authorities, civil society organisations, the media, Roma communities and the wider community.

Implementation and Description of the Activity

The Roma Influencers Festival – Portugal was held on 4 September 2026 in the Ameixoeira social housing neighbourhood, Lisbon, a socioeconomically disadvantaged area of the city. The Festival was organised by CooperActiva – Cooperativa de Desenvolvimento Social, in collaboration with Associação Rizoma and the Ameixoeira Community Centre of Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa. The involvement of these local organisations was particularly important in facilitating the implementation of the event within the community and encouraging the participation of local residents.

The Festival was designed as a community-based awareness-raising event addressing the main themes of the project, particularly early marriage, early motherhood, education, and the rights and empowerment of Roma women and girls. Different communication and artistic formats were combined throughout the event, including photography, testimonies from Roma women, documentary films, public discussions and music.

One of the central elements of the Festival was a photographic exhibition featuring photographs taken during the implementation of the project. The photographs were displayed on grid walls along the walkway leading to the screening area. The exhibition also incorporated quotes from Roma women collected through the national and comparative research carried out within the project. By combining images produced during the project with the voices and experiences of Roma women, the exhibition provided participants with an accessible introduction to the issues addressed by the project.

The exhibition accompanied participants along the entrance walkway towards an inflatable cinema, which was installed specifically for the Festival and constituted the main screening and discussion space. This setting created an attractive and informal environment within the neighbourhood and helped bring the project's audiovisual results directly into the community.

The screening session began with a brief presentation of the project by CooperActiva's project coordinator together with a Roma Influencer. They introduced the objectives of the project, the work carried out with Roma women and the process leading to the production of the audiovisual materials presented during the Festival. The direct participation of the Roma Influencer was particularly important in ensuring that Roma women were not only represented in the materials but also had an active role in presenting and discussing the project's results.

During the first part of the session, part of the transnational documentary was screened. During the screening, however, the team identified an important accessibility issue: some members of the audience were unable to read and therefore found it difficult to follow audiovisual content that depended on subtitles.

In response, the team adapted the planned programme and, during the second part of the session, screened the Portuguese national videos instead. This enabled the women in the audience to understand the testimonies and discussions directly in Portuguese, without having to rely on subtitles. This adaptation proved important in ensuring that different levels of literacy did not become a barrier to accessing the project's results or participating meaningfully in the activity.

After each screening, the floor was opened for discussion and audience participation. The Roma women present expressed a strong sense of pride in seeing other Roma women speaking openly about their lives and experiences. Several women stated that they agreed and identified with what they had seen and heard and were encouraged to share some of their own experiences with the group.

The screenings also generated interest among professionals attending the Festival. Education professionals, for example, expressed their intention to use the videos in their schools as educational and awareness-raising resources, thereby creating potential for the audiovisual materials produced by the project to continue to be used beyond the Festival itself.

The discussions also allowed participants to reflect on the wider social context surrounding early marriage and early motherhood. Although these issues also affect Roma communities, the discussion highlighted their relationship with poverty and socioeconomic vulnerability and the importance of avoiding generalisations about Roma people.

In this context, the Roma Influencer highlighted the diversity that exists within Roma communities and the very different social, educational and economic contexts in which Roma people live. She also stressed the importance of recognising social change and positive developments within Roma communities, noting that there are now many Roma girls and young women pursuing higher education.

Following the film screenings and discussions, an outdoor panel discussion focusing on early marriage, early motherhood and education took place. The panel created an additional space for dialogue and exchange between Roma community members, professionals and other participants, linking the personal experiences presented through the films with broader questions concerning education, opportunities and the situation of Roma women and girls.

Regarding participation, 49 people signed the official attendance sheet, while the actual number of people who participated in the Festival throughout the event was estimated at approximately 100. The difference between the documented and estimated attendance resulted from circumstances occurring during the event. Halfway through the Festival, heavy rain and strong winds required the organisation to quickly move and protect materials and equipment and disrupted the normal registration process. Consequently, a significant number of people who were already participating in the Festival did not sign the attendance sheet. In addition, some community members preferred not to provide their signatures. The attendance sheet should therefore be understood as documenting 49 confirmed participants, while direct observation by the organising team indicated an overall attendance of approximately 100 people throughout the event.

The Festival concluded with a musical performance by the father and husband of one of the Roma women who participated in the national video. This final moment brought an additional community and cultural dimension to the event, involving family members of one of the project participants and providing an informal and participatory conclusion to the Festival.

Overall, the Festival combined visual exhibition, audiovisual storytelling, direct testimony, public discussion and cultural participation. The use of photographs and statements from Roma women, the screenings inside the inflatable cinema, the active participation of a Roma Influencer, the spontaneous contributions of women from the community and the subsequent panel discussion created different opportunities for engagement with the project's themes.

The experience also demonstrated the importance of flexibility and accessibility when implementing community-based activities. The decision to adapt the screenings in response to literacy barriers enabled more participants to understand the content and take part in the subsequent discussions. The reactions of Roma women to seeing other Roma women represented on screen, their willingness to share their own experiences, and the interest expressed by education professionals in using the videos in schools were particularly relevant outcomes of the activity.

2. Promotional materials

The activity foresees a coordinated package of printed materials.

2.1. Invitation and programme

Final Invitation and programme

ROMA INFLUENCERS NETWORK

WP5.2 FESTIVAL
ROMA INFLUENCERS

INFLUENCERS DAS
COMUNIDADES CIGANAS

QUEBRANDO O CICLO DOS
CASAMENTOS E DA
MATERNIDADE PRECOCES

4 de SETEMBRO de 2026
14h00 | SEXTA-FEIRA
CENTRO DESENVOLVIMENTO COMUNITÁRIO DA AMEIXOEIRA
R. FERNANDO GUSMÃO 4, 1750-428 LISBOA

PROGRAMA

14H ABERTURA → EXPOSIÇÃO
FOTOGRAFICA

14H30M → PROJEÇÃO DE FILMES/
DOCUMENTÁRIO

15H → CONVERSA/DEBATE

15H30M → COMPONENTE CULTURAL/
ARTÍSTICA

16H → ENCERRAMENTO/
NETWORKING

Financiado pela
União Europeia

Erasmus+
Enriquece vidas, altera horizontes

ROMA INFLUENCERS NETWORK/2024-1-EL01-KA220-ADU-000247507

Kafkara
Kafkara - Associação de Apoio Social e Cultural das Comunidades Ciganas

Cairde
Centro de Apoio e Intervenção Social

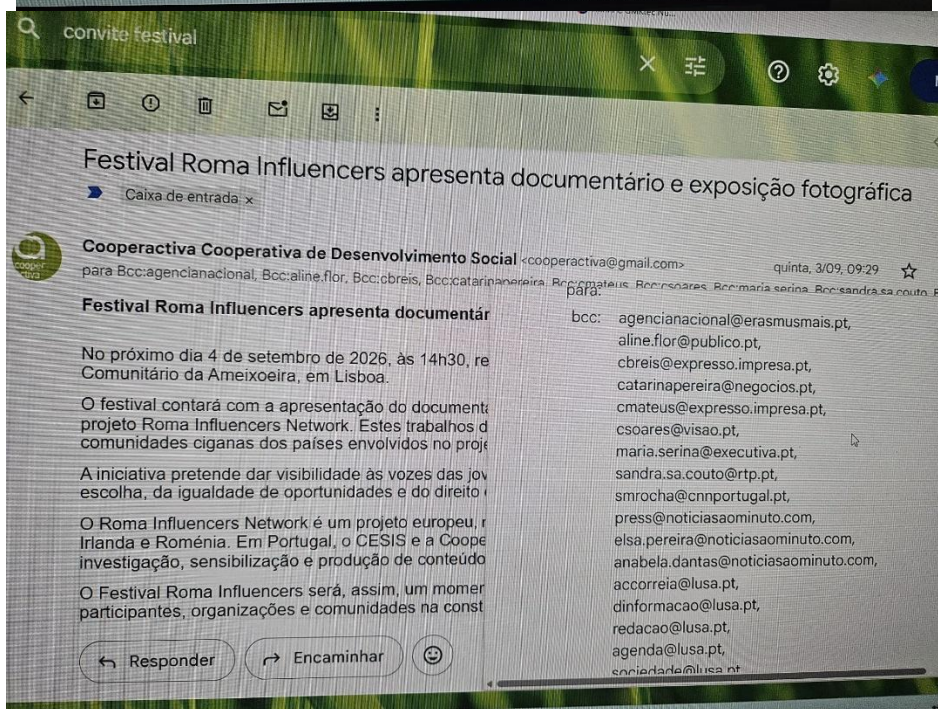
cooper activa

SASTIFEN

Invitation and programme displayed at venue or community location



The invitation and programme for the Roma Influencers Festival were disseminated through the social media channels of CooperActiva and CESIS, namely Facebook and Instagram, in the period leading up to the event. These channels were used to raise awareness of the Festival, provide information about the programme, date and venue, and encourage participation. In addition to dissemination through Facebook and Instagram, the invitation and programme were shared by email with local organisations, professionals, public services, media and other stakeholders working with Roma communities and in the fields of education and social inclusion. Printed copies were also made available locally through the organisations involved in the Festival and at the event venue.



Facebook CooperActiva and CESIS


COOPERACTIVA
1 de setembro às 09:30

Apareçam!

Sexta-feira vamos conversar sobre casamentos e maternidades precoces. A tua opinião conta!

Ajuda-nos a pensar sobre este tema.

Que prevenir?

Projeto "Roma Influencers Network"

#romainfluencersnetwork

#Erasmus+

#uniãoeuropeia Ver menos



ROMA INFLUENCERS NETWORK

WP5.2 FESTIVAL ROMA INFLUENCERS

INFLUENCERS DAS COMUNIDADES CIGANAS

QUEBRANDO O CICLO DOS CASAMENTOS E DA MATERNIDADE PRECOSES

4 de SETEMBRO de 2026

14h00 | SEXTA-FEIRA

CENTRO DESENVOLVIMENTO COMUNITÁRIO DA AMEIXOEIRA
R. FERNANDO GUSMÃO 4 - 1750-528 LISBOA

PROGRAMA

14H ABERTURA → EXPOSIÇÃO FOTOGRÁFICA

14H30M → PROJEÇÃO DE FILMES/ DOCUMENTÁRIO

15H → CONVERSA/DEBATE

15H30M → COMPONENTE CULTURAL/ ARTÍSTICA

16H → ENCERRAMENTO/ NETWORKING



Financiado pela União Europeia

Erasmus+
Investing in your tomorrow

ROMA INFLUENCERS NETWORK/2024-1-EL01-KA220-ADU-000247507




COOPERACTIVA
4 de setembro às 09:42

Festival Roma Influencers apresenta documentário e exposição fotográfica

No próximo dia 4 de setembro de 2026, às 14h30, realiza-se o Festival Roma Influencers, no Centro de Desenvolvimento Comunitário da Ameixoeira, em Lisboa.

O festival contará com a apresentação do documentário internacional e de uma exposição fotográfica, produzidos no âmbito do projeto Roma Influencers Network. Estes trabalhos dão a conhecer experiências, perspetivas e aspirações de mulheres das comunidades ciganas dos países envolvidos no projeto, promovendo a reflexão sobre os casamentos e a maternidade precoces.

A iniciativa pretende dar visibilidade às vozes das jovens mulheres ciganas e sensibilizar para a importância da liberdade de escolha, da igualdade de oportunidades e do direito de cada jovem a decidir sobre o seu percurso de vida.

O Roma Influencers Network é um projeto europeu, no âmbito do Programa Erasmus+, que reúne organizações de Portugal, Grécia, Irlanda e Roménia. Em Portugal, o CESIS e a CooperActiva integram a parceria e têm vindo a desenvolver atividades de investigação, sensibilização e produção de conteúdos sobre os impactos dos casamentos e da maternidade precoces.

O Festival Roma Influencers será, assim, um momento de encontro e partilha dos resultados deste trabalho, envolvendo participantes, organizações e comunidades na construção de futuros com mais oportunidades, autonomia e liberdade de escolha. Ver menos



2 FESTIVAL ROMA INFLUENCERS

INFLUENCERS DAS COMUNIDADES CIGANAS

QUEBRANDO O CICLO DOS CASAMENTOS E DA MATERNIDADE PRECOSES

4 de SETEMBRO de 2026

14h00 | SEXTA-FEIRA

CENTRO DESENVOLVIMENTO COMUNITÁRIO DA AMEIXOEIRA
R. FERNANDO GUSMÃO 4 - 1750-528 LISBOA

PROGRAMA

14H ABERTURA → EXPOSIÇÃO FOTOGRÁFICA

14H30M → PROJEÇÃO DE FILMES/ DOCUMENTÁRIO

15H → CONVERSA/DEBATE

15H30M → COMPONENTE CULTURAL/ ARTÍSTICA

16H → ENCERRAMENTO/ NETWORKING

VOZES de Mulheres Portuguesas Ciganas

3 2

Comentar como Cesis Centro de Estudos


Cesis - Centro de Estudos para a Intervenção Social
1 de setembro às 14:04 ·

Apareçam!

Sexta-feira vamos conversar sobre casamentos e maternidades precoces. A tua opinião conta! Ajuda-nos a pensar sobre este tema.

Que prevenir?

Projeto Roma Influencers Network

#romainfluencersnetwork

#Erasmus+

#uniãoeuropeia Ver menos




Cesis - Centro de Estudos para a Intervenção Social
4 de setembro às 11:01 ·

Festival Roma Influencers apresenta documentário e exposição fotográfica

No próximo dia 4 de setembro de 2026, às 14h30, realiza-se o Festival Roma Influencers, no Centro de Desenvolvimento Comunitário da Ameixoeira, em Lisboa.

O festival contará com a apresentação do documentário internacional e de uma exposição fotográfica, produzidos no âmbito do projeto Roma Influencers Network. Estes trabalhos dão a conhecer experiências, perspetivas e aspirações de mulheres das comunidades ciganas dos países envolvidos no projeto, promovendo a reflexão sobre os casamentos e a maternidade precoces.

A iniciativa pretende dar visibilidade às vozes das jovens mulheres ciganas e sensibilizar para a importância da liberdade de escolha, da igualdade de oportunidades e do direito de cada jovem a decidir sobre o seu percurso de vida.

O Roma Influencers Network é um projeto europeu, no âmbito do Programa Erasmus+, que reúne organizações de Portugal, Grécia, Irlanda e Roménia. Em Portugal, o Cesis e a CooperActiva integram a parceria e têm vindo a desenvolver atividades de investigação, sensibilização e produção de conteúdos sobre os impactos dos casamentos e da maternidade precoces.

O Festival Roma Influencers será, assim, um momento de encontro e partilha dos resultados deste trabalho, envolvendo participantes, organizações e comunidades na construção de futuros com mais oportunidades, autonomia e liberdade de escolha. Ver menos




COOPERACTIVA
4 de setembro às 09:42 ·

Festival Roma Influencers apresenta documentário e exposição fotográfica... Ver mais


COOPERACTIVA está em COOPERACTIVA
5 de setembro às 00:15 · Amadora · 2 Changes · LAVLO ·

Festival Roma Influencers

À conversa sobre casamentos e maternidade precoces.

O Festival Roma Influencers foi um momento de encontro e partilha que envolveu participantes, organizações e comunidades na construção de futuros com mais oportunidades, autonomia e liberdade de escolha.

Projeto desenvolvido no âmbito do Programa Europeu ERASMUS+ e financiado pela União Europeia Ver menos



7 4

Comentar como Cesis Centro de Estudos

Instagram CooperActiva and CESIS



ROMA INFLUENCERS NETWORK

WP5.2 FESTIVAL
ROMA INFLUENCERS

INFLUENCERS DAS
COMUNIDADES CIGANAS
QUEBRANDO O CICLO DOS
CASAMENTOS E DA
MATERNIDADE PRECOSES

4 de SETEMBRO de 2026
14h00 | SEXTA-FEIRA

CENTRO DESENVOLVIMENTO COMUNITÁRIO DA AMEIXOIRA
R. FERNANDO GUSMÃO 4, 1750-428 LISBOA

PROGRAMA

14H ABERTURA → EXPOSIÇÃO
FOTOGRAFICA

14H30M → PROJEÇÃO DE FILMES/
DOCUMENTÁRIO

15H → CONVERSA/DEBATE

15H30M → COMPONENTE CULTURAL/
ARTÍSTICA

16H → ENCERRAMENTO/
NETWORKING

Financiado pela
União Europeia

Erasmus+
Desenvolvendo redes, alargando horizontes.

ROMA INFLUENCERS NETWORK/2024-1-EL01-KA220-ADU-000247507

Калыпка Algarve Meeting and Project Cairde ESF Cooperativa Relaxa e Aprende



cesispt

cesispt Apareçam!

Sexta feira vamos conversar sobre casamentos e maternidades precoces. A tua opinião conta!

Ajuda-nos a pensar sobre este tema.

Que prevenir?

Projeto @roma_influencers_network

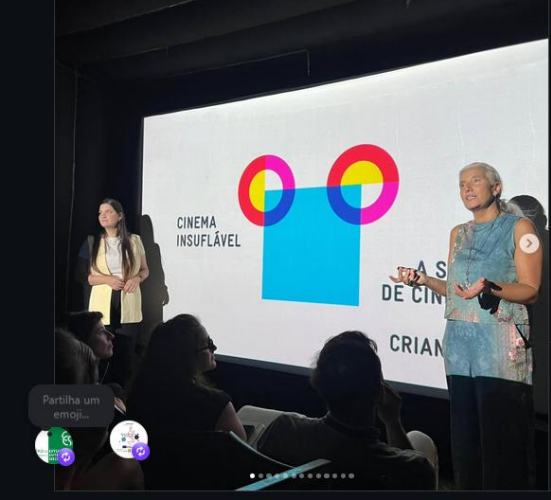
#romainfluencersnetwork
#Erasmus+
#uniãoeuropeia

3 sem

Ver estatísticas Promover publicação

1/9 Gostos: roma_influencers_network e 5 outras pessoas

Adicionar comentário... Publicar



cooperactiva1
COOPERATIVA

A seguir ...

cooperactiva1 2 sem
Festival Roma Influencers

À conversa sobre casamentos e maternidade precoces.

O Festival Roma Influencers foi um momento de encontro e partilha que envolveu participantes, organizações e comunidades na construção de futuros com mais oportunidades, autonomia e liberdade de escolha.

Projeto desenvolvido no âmbito do Programa Europeu ERASMUS+ e cofinanciado pela União Europeia

cairdehealthconnect 1 s

35 1 5

Gostos: roma_influencers_network e 34 outras pessoas

5/9

Adicionar comentário...

Partilha um emoji...

2.2. Poster

Final poster artwork



Poster displayed at venue or community location



2.3. Banner

Banner artwork



2.4. Roll ups

Roll ups artwork



Roll ups installed at the festival



2.5. Woven bags

Woven bags artwork



Woven bags



3. Programme and festival implementation

The programme combined visual dissemination, documentary screening, facilitated discussion, cultural or artistic participation and networking.

ROMA INFLUENCERS NETWORK

WP5.2 FESTIVAL
ROMA INFLUENCERS

INFLUENCERS DAS
COMUNIDADES CIGANAS

QUEBRANDO O CICLO DOS
CASAMENTOS E DA
MATERNIDADE PRECOCES

4 de SETEMBRO de 2026
14h00 | SEXTA-FEIRA

CENTRO DESENVOLVIMENTO COMUNITÁRIO DA AMEIXOEIRA
R. FERNANDO GUSMÃO 4, 1750-428 LISBOA

PROGRAMA

14H ABERTURA → EXPOSIÇÃO
FOTOGRAFICA

14H30M → PROJEÇÃO DE FILMES/
DOCUMENTÁRIO

15H → CONVERSA/DEBATE

15H30M → COMPONENTE CULTURAL/
ARTÍSTICA

16H → ENCERRAMENTO/
NETWORKING

Financiado pela
União Europeia

Erasmus+
Esquecer vidas, alargar horizontes.

ROMA INFLUENCERS NETWORK/2024-1-EL01-KA220-ADU-000247507

Káipaka
Káipaka Projetos em Portugal
Cairde
CENTRO DESENVOLVIMENTO COMUNITÁRIO DA AMEIXOEIRA
cooper activa
SASTIPEN

The Festival broadly followed the planned programme, beginning with the photographic exhibition and the presentation of the Roma Influencers Network project. The screening session initially included part of the transnational documentary. However, after identifying literacy barriers among some members of the audience, the programme was adapted and the Portuguese national videos were screened instead. This adjustment enabled participants to follow the testimonies directly in Portuguese and contributed to more inclusive participation. The screenings were followed by audience discussion, an outdoor panel on early marriage, early motherhood and education, and a musical performance involving family members of one of the Roma women featured in the national video. The Festival concluded with informal exchanges and networking among community members, professionals and representatives of the organisations involved.

4. Participants and attendance

The Festival brought together members of the local Roma community, residents of the Ameixoeira neighbourhood, education and social sector professionals, representatives of civil society organisations and local public services. Participation figures were assessed using the attendance list and the direct observations of the organising team, as not all participants completed the registration process.

The participants' attendance list is included as Annex 1 and submitted as a separate file.

Indicator	Target
Total participants	49 participants recorded in the attendance list; approximately 100 people estimated to have attended throughout the event
Representatives of public authorities	6 representatives of local public services were present, including Lisbon Municipal Police. Exact number not available
NGO and civil society representatives	17 representatives of CESIS, CooperActiva, Associação Rizoma, Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa and other professionals participated. Exact number not available
Roma community representatives	5 Roma women, a Roma Influencer and other members of the local Roma community participated actively. Exact number not available
Wider community	Local residents, families and other community members attended the Festival. Exact number not available

The attendance list contains 49 recorded participants. However, the organising team estimated that approximately 100 people attended the Festival at different times during the event. The difference resulted mainly from the interruption of the registration process caused by heavy rain and strong winds, as well as from the reluctance of some community members to provide their signatures. The figures presented by participant category are therefore qualitative, as the attendance form did not systematically collect information on participant profiles or organisational affiliation.

Based on the evaluation completed by some of the participants in the Festival organised as part of the *Roma Influencers* project, the initiative was rated very positively, achieving an average score of 3.9 on a scale from 1 to 4, with 4 being the highest possible score. Respondents also rated the quality of the exhibition very positively, describing it as a source of inspiration for change.

According to the evaluation responses, the women featured in the project film can also be regarded as role models, which was considered particularly “important for providing examples and inspiring children and young people”. Other participants highlighted the importance of the materials developed by the project in showcasing “alternative pathways, such as continuing education and being able to choose a different future”.

5. Photo documentation

Representative selection of photographs showing the venue, visibility materials and the principal stages of the festival.

Opening session

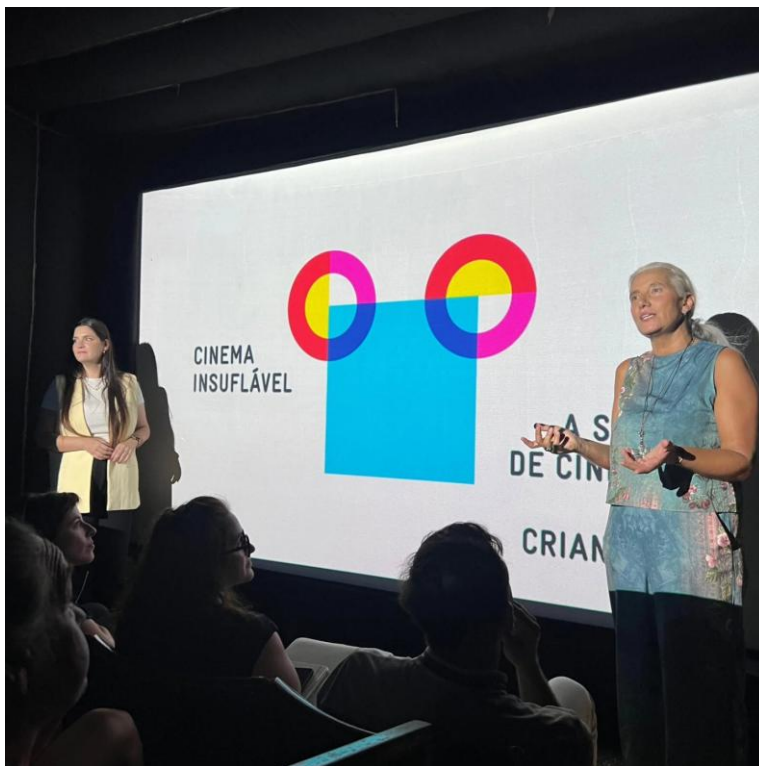
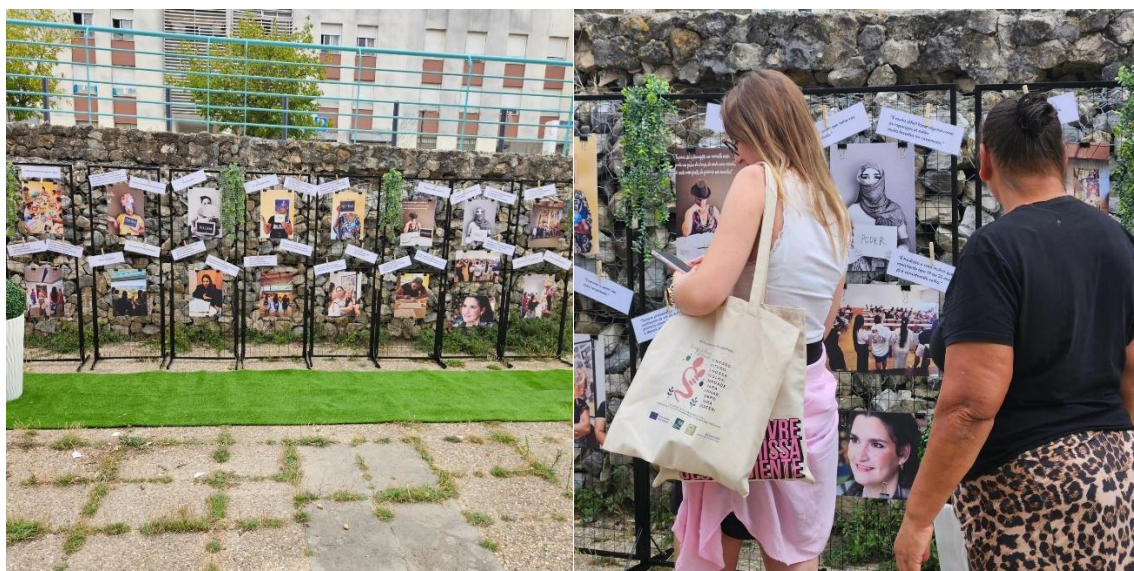


Photo exhibition



Documentary screening



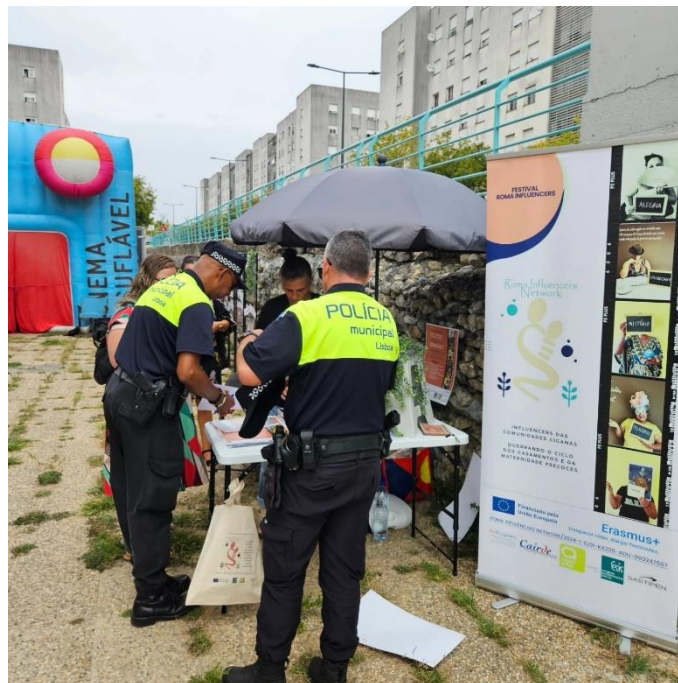
Discussion with participants



Cultural or artistic component



Networking



6. Annexes

Annex 1 Signed participants list