

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 Fossombrone Municipality of Middelburg
PIC number:	Municipality of Fossombrone: 876443307 Municipality of Middelburg: 937840621
Project name and acronym:	PRomoting ExcellenceS of renAissance Glorious twinEd towns - PRESAGE

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	Relative number in WP: D1.2		
Event name:	The Middelburg Historical Wine Festival		
Type:	Tastings, Pairings, Round tables		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Netherlands, Middelburg/Zeeland		
Date(s):	9 – 13 October 2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://visitfossombrone.it/presage-project/ https://www.middelburg.nl/europees-project-presage		
Participants			
Female:	17 + 15 = 32		
Male:	9 + 10 = 19		
Non-binary:			
From country 1 [ITALY]:	26		
From country 2 [NETHERLANDS]:	25		
Total number of participants:	51	From total number of countries:	2
Description			
Provide a short description of the event and its activities.			
Thursday – October 9 2025			
9.15	Departure from Ancona to Charleroi		
11.05	Arrival in Charleroi		
12.00	Transfer from Charleroi to Middelburg		

14.00	Check-in at the Hotel - Free time and dinner
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Friday – October 10 2025

9.00 – 11.30	Guided tour of Middelburg
12.00 – 13.30	Welcome by the Maire of Middelburg and lunch
14.00 – 15.30	Conference focusing on female Entrepreneurship (female entrepreneurs from Fossombrone and Middelburg)
15.30 – 16.00	Setting up a stand for a wine festival by Fossombrone Touristic promotional and wine stand
16.15 – 16.30	Opening of wine festival at Old Town Hall
16.30- 17.00	Lecture / Seminar: the history of wine trade between Zeeland and Italy
16.30 – 18.00	Preparing the food-drink contest / tasting
18.00 – 21.00	Contest / Tasting: Italian pizza and dutch beers, Zeeland mussels and Italian wines

Saturday – October 11 2025

9.30	Sightseeing tour by coach from the hotel
10.00 - 12.00	Visit to the cheese farm
12.00 – 18.00	Sightseeing tour on the Island of Walcheren including a free visit to Veere
18.00 – 19.00	Workshop: Wine, culture and territory: Zeeland meets Italy
19.00	Zeeland diner at the wine festival

Sunday – October 12 2025

10.30 – 12.00	Guided tour at Hans Lipperhey Museum
12.30 – 13.45	Lunch in Zeeuws Museum
13.45 – 14.45	Visit Zeeuws museum
14.45 – 16.45	Conference on Paolo da Middelburg

Monday – October 13 2025

10.00	Welcome and visit the Drvkkerij
14.00	Transfer to Charleroi
18.45	Departure from Charleroi to Ancona
20.35	Arrival in Ancona

Summary

The event in Middelburg, held from October 9 to 13, 2025, has involved a physical exchange of people, with 26 Italian participants - from the municipal administration, municipal technical staff, tourism and hospitality operators, business operators, representatives of various associations, professionals and the academic community - visiting the city of Middelburg and the environment that surrounds the capital of the province of Zeeland.

Through this initiative, PRESAGE aimed to broaden civic engagement and promote a shared European heritage while building long-term cultural and economic collaboration between the two cities.

Main activities, results and impacts:

- **Welcome in Middelburg:** the delegation departed from Ancona Airport for Brussels Charleroi and, from there, travelled by private transfer to Middelburg, in the province of Zeeland. Upon arrival, the Italian delegation was welcomed by representatives of the municipality of the Dutch city.

- **Guided tour of Middelburg:** the Italian delegation discovered the historic city centre of Middelburg, visiting various municipal and regional facilities, including the large Municipal Archives. At the end of the tour, an institutional meeting was held with Mayor Yvonne van Mastrigt who offered all participants a

welcome lunch; this was followed, in the municipal offices, by a highly significant moment featuring speeches by the Dutch and Italian authorities and the exchange of institutional gifts.

- **Conference focusing on female Entrepreneurship:** a conference on female entrepreneurship was held at University College Roosevelt, bringing together a group of Italian women and a Dutch representative. The Fossombrone delegation was represented by Martina and Ludovica Berloni, from “La Collina delle Fate”; Laura Heerlien, from the “Nido Visone” B&B; Maria Chiara Aguzzi, from the jewellery workshop “All Gold”; and Ilaria Montoni, from the company “Sinergia S.r.l.”. The discussion focused on highlighting the role of women in European entrepreneurship, the differences and similarities between Italy and the Netherlands, and the potential goals that women in business should pursue in order to grow and become stronger.

- **Visit and participation to the Middelburg Wine Festival:** held at Middelburg Town Hall, Municipality of Fossombrone and the company “La Collina delle Fate” participate at the Middelburg Wine Festival, the international wine festival taking place in the city on 10 and 11 October 2025. This was an important promotional opportunity for the Municipality of Fossombrone and for the entire Italian delegation, which had the opportunity to get in touch with visitors to the event and with various other wine companies, attracting numerous visitors to the Fossombrone stand, both to taste the products on offer and to learn more about the city, its surrounding area and the Marche region.

- **Seminar “the history of wine trade between Zeeland and Italy” / Workshop “Wine, culture and territory: Zeeland meets Italy”:** a seminar was held on the historical trade relations between Italy and the Netherlands, with a particular focus on the import and export of wine products; Through the participation of “La Collina delle Fate” company, a tasting workshop featuring various types of Italian wines was organized, at the meantime workshop also provided an opportunity to discuss on various wine production methodologies and different qualities of wines.

- **Contest / Tasting “Italian pizza and Dutch beers, Zeeland mussels and Italian wines”:** at Sociëteit de Vergenoeging was held a tasting and pairing of Italian pizza and Dutch mussels with local wine and beer. This proved to be a particularly valuable opportunity for dialogue between the Italian and Dutch representatives and technical staff of the two cities regarding past, current and future projects.

- **Visit to the “Schellach Cheese farm”:** participants had the possibility to visit and tastings some cheeses at the “Schellach Cheese farm”, an authentic cheese farm known for its dairy cattle and traditional cheese-making. The cheese produced is well-known throughout Zeeland and the range is extensive: from young to aged cheese, as well as delicious herb cheeses with flavours like mustard, fenugreek, or nettle.

- **Sightseeing tour on the Island of Walcheren including a free visit to Veere and Vlissingen:** Italian delegation was accompanied to the town of Veere, on the island of Walcheren, to discover one of the most picturesque locations in the region. Here, participants had the opportunity to admire the impressive Dutch engineering behind the construction of dykes, drainage systems and water-control barriers. The delegation visited also the maritime city of Vlissingen, in the south of Zeeland, a typical fishing town exploring the old harbour and admire the technological systems used for the entry and exit of boats, as well as the movable pedestrian bridges connecting the various canals.

- **Visit to the Hans Lipperhey Museum / Zeeuws Museum:** delegation had the opportunity to visit the “Hans Lipperhey Museum”, dedicated to science and technological discoveries related to astronomy, with particular attention to optical instruments, telescopes and other developments that highlighted the contribution of Dutch scholars to the field. Afterwards, the group moved to visit the Zeeuws Museum, an innovative and highly forward-looking contemporary art museum.

- **Conference on Paolo da Middelburg:** Organised by Professor Henk de Kunder together with the municipal technical staff of Fossombrone, with the contribution of Professor Flavia Marcacci of the University of Urbino through an explanatory video, the conference explored various aspects of Paolo da Middelburg’s life and achievements, highlighting his human value and his “European identity” *ante litteram*. He was a traveller and a European citizen in spirit, familiar with several countries of his time; a highly cultured man who was simultaneously an astronomer, physician, scientist, mathematician and algebraist, as well as a religious figure who left an important cultural legacy in Fossombrone.

- **Visit to the Middelburg tourist info point,** a facility of considerable architectural and functional value, combining tourist information and promotion, a bookshop and merchandising area, cultural spaces for exhibitions, and areas for relaxation and reading. This provided an opportunity to gather good practices and ideas that could potentially be adapted and implemented in Fossombrone in the fields of tourism promotion and visitor services.

The twinning visit to Middelburg represented the first major event of the project “PRomoting ExcellenceS of renAissance Glourious twinEd towns (P.R.E.S.A.G.E.)”, establishing a shared path of dialogue, mutual understanding and knowledge between the communities of Fossombrone and Middelburg, in the Zeeland region of the Netherlands.

At the same time, the stay and the activities organised promoted solidarity and civic engagement, strengthened the sense of European belonging, and enhanced the cultural, historical and gastronomic heritage of the two communities. These activities were inspired by the figure of Bishop Paolo da Middelburg, a symbol of unity and intercultural exchange between the two cities involved in the project, thereby contributing to greater awareness of the cultural diversity within the European Union.

Finally, the foundations were laid for the development of international relations capable of fostering, over time, a long-term cultural and economic partnership between the two cities and between Italy and the Netherlands.

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