

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:	COMUNA PLAIESII DE JOS – Com Plaiesii
PIC number:	932314337
Project name and acronym:	Together for Change Twin Town Forum – TFch - TTF

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	101212581		
Event name:	Twinning Forum 2 in Romania		
Type:	Workshops, roundtables, cultural activities, social activities, networking		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Romania, Plaiesii de Jos		
Date(s):	15-17 February 2026		
Website(s) (if any):	Together for Change – CERV Town Twinning Mysite		
Participants			
Female:	300		
Male:	320		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Romania]:	534		
From country 2 [Hungary]:	56		
From country 3 [Serbia]:	15		
From country 4 [Slovakia]	15		
Total number of participants:	620	From total number of countries:	4
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The second town twinning event of the CERV project took place in Plăieșii de Jos, Romania, on 15–17 February 2026. It brought together 86 international participants from Hungary, Slovakia, and Serbia, as well as around 500 local participants. The 3-day forum focused on gender equality, minority inclusion, and youth civic engagement through a series of structured workshops and community activities. A variety of audiences and participants were engaged, including young residents and their</p>			

youth representatives, representatives and members of women's associations and informal groups, representatives of ethnic minority members, local and regional decision-makers from authorities and public bodies, members and leaders of civic associations and NGOs.

Agenda of the events:

Sunday, 15 February 2026

Welcome and Official Opening - Lucos Pension

International participants from Hungary, Slovakia, and Serbia and local representatives from Romania (mayor, vice-mayor, council members, NGO representatives) gathered at Lucos pension for registration and the official opening of the forum. The Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Program Coordinator from the Local Authority of Plăieșii de Jos delivered a welcome speech, welcoming the project partners, presented the detailed program plan, and the necessary information related to the event.

Inclusive Europe at the Local Level – Interactive Workshop

In the afternoon, a thematic panel was held where local authority representatives, NGOs and associations from the five partner towns presented their work. This was followed by an introductory workshop specifically focused on youth, cultural, and women's organizations. Participants identified the main challenges these groups face and began an initial exchange on how local associations represent women ethnic minorities and young people in different countries, how they deal with gender equality and how they involve youth in local civic life. This session was the foundation of the following day's activities, where groups prepared to share more in-depth details of their specific projects, best practices, and plans for future cross-border cooperation.

Cultural Food Fair and Traditional Activities

The evening program focused on local heritage and food traditions. Participants visited a local "esztena" (mountain sheepfold) to learn about traditional sheep farming and shepherd life in the region. Back at the main location, the delegations participated in traditional bread baking and local food preparation. This was part of a cultural food fair where guests could taste local products and discuss how the traditional lifestyle contributes to community identity. The evening provided an informal space for the international guests and local residents to interact and share cultural traditions.

Monday, 16 February 2026

Site Visit and Local Industry Exploration

The morning started with a site visit to a well-known local craft industry facility. This visit served as an example of a local community-scale project that contributes to regional development and employment. Participants explored the facility and discussed how local businesses can support community initiatives and provide opportunities for the local workforce, including youth and women. The visit allowed delegations to see a practical example of how regional identity and modern production can work together to strengthen the local economy.

Building Inclusive Communities – Best Practices and Action Planning

In the afternoon, the workshop continued from the previous day's discussions. Participants from the five partner communities worked in groups to share more in-depth details about their specific community development projects and successful best practices. Using the insights and feedback shared during the event, a SWOT analysis was developed that outlined the strengths and weaknesses of the community initiatives and the future cooperations. The session focused on planning future cross-border activities and drafting concrete ideas for the next two years of cooperation. This collaborative work was important for identifying how different communities can help each other reach common goals regarding social inclusion and civic participation. This collaborative work focused on planning future activities and identifying how the partners can support each other in promoting social inclusion and the active participation of youth, women and minority groups over the next two years.

Youth-led dialogue workshop

The youth association leaders, representatives, and members took part in youth-led dialogue circles that focused on local activism and civic participation. Young representatives from the delegations shared their views on how to increase youth involvement in local decision-making and presented successful examples of youth-led projects from their own countries. The participants worked together to identify specific barriers that prevent young people from being active in their communities. The results of these dialogues were used as a direct contribution to the youth section of the Strategic Action Plan being drafted for the next two years.

Cultural Performances and Intercultural Exchange

The day ended with cultural performances by local folk dance groups and traditional musicians at the community center. After the showcase, the international participants were invited to join the local dancers to learn basic traditional steps, creating an intercultural connection between the delegations.

Tuesday, 17 February 2026**Collaborative Session: Drafting a Vision for Future Cooperation**

The morning session took place in the Assembly Hall of the Local Authority, where international participants and local representatives gathered to finalize the project's future direction. Participants worked in cross-national groups to review the ideas from the previous workshops and turn them into a shared vision for the network. The discussion focused on practical ways to maintain cooperation, specifically addressing how to keep youth engaged in rural areas and how to support women in local leadership and business.

Each delegation presented proposals for the Strategic Action Plan. These included plans for future youth exchanges, shared cultural events, and a digital network to help local NGOs and authorities stay in contact for future cooperations. The session involved a discussion on a timeline for the next two years and the resources needed to keep the partnership active. This was a practical planning session where general goals were turned into a concrete roadmap for promoting solidarity and equality through local actions.

Community Debate and Cultural Event

In the afternoon, the program moved to the village center for the "Bikaütés" (the striking of the bull), a unique carnival ritual of the Plăieșii de Jos region. The event began with a community debate held on an open-air stage in the center of the village. Local speakers and representatives from the delegations addressed the crowd, discussing the importance of active citizenship and how small communities can stay resilient in the face of modern challenges.

Following the debate, the international guests joined hundreds of local residents for the traditional cultural event. The ritual involves a "bull" (a person dressed in straw) being led through the streets while the participants engage in humorous bargaining with "buyers." Participants observed how the performers incorporated modern social topics, such as rising energy costs and local water scarcity, into their traditional dialogue. This provided a practical example for the youth delegations on how cultural heritage can be used as a medium for social commentary. The event concluded with the symbolic breaking of a clay pot and the burning of straw, marking the end of the carnival season and the beginning of the Lenten period. This large-scale interaction allowed the international participants to experience firsthand how deep-rooted traditions promote social cohesion and a sense of shared responsibility.

Presentation of the Action Plan and Closing Ceremony

After the street event, the delegations gathered for the final presentation of the initial ideas for the Strategic Action Plan. Each group shared their main takeaways and what they hope to achieve in the next two years of the partnership. The forum ended with a closing ceremony where each delegation shared a short reflection on their experience. The Mayor of Plăieșii de Jos officially closed the event, thanking the participants for their hard work in making the community more inclusive and for contributing to the future of the network.





HISTORY OF CHANGES

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

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