

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 1 in Romania		
Type:	Workshops, roundtables, cultural activities, social activities, networking		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Romania, Plaiesii de Jos		
Date(s):	8-9 August 2025		
Website(s) (if any):	Together for Change – CERV Town Twinning Mysite		
Participants			
Female:	300		
Male:	200		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Romania]:	475		
From country 2 [Hungary]:	13		
From country 3 [Serbia]:	6		
From country 4 [Slovakia]	6		
Total number of participants:	500	From total number of countries:	4
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The first town twinning event of the CERV project took place in Plăieșii de Jos, Romania, on 8–9 August 2025. It brought together 500 participants from Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, and Serbia, including youth, women, minority groups, educators, and local authorities. The event combined workshops, cultural visits, community activities, and roundtable discussions to promote civic engagement, inclusion, and cross-border cooperation.</p>			

The event aimed to encourage youth participation in civic life at both local and European levels, while also promoting the involvement of women and marginalized groups in community development. Another key objective was to strengthen intercultural dialogue and cooperation between partner towns and lay the groundwork for a shared two-year action plan for collaboration.

Friday, 8 August 2025

Registration and Official Opening at the Local Authority of Plăieșii de Jos

Participants from Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, and Serbia gathered at the local authority's main building for registration and welcoming. The mayor of Plăieșii de Jos delivered a welcome speech, introducing the project partners and coordinators, as well as the objectives of the program and planned activities. Printed daily program events were distributed to the participants.

Visit to the Ethnographic Museum of Plăieșii de Jos

Participants took part in a guided tour of the Ethnographic Museum of Plăieșii de Jos, where they explored traditional artefacts, local crafts, and exhibits illustrating the history and cultural identity of the region. The visit offered participants a deeper understanding of the region's traditions, lifestyle, and community values, and a deeper understanding of the local heritage.

Visit to the exhibition Military Activities in the Casin Valley

Participants took part in a guided visit to a local military exhibition, where they explored collections of artefacts from the First and Second World Wars. The visit showcased the important battles that were fought in the Valley since the area was part of the front during the wars. Through this experience, participants gained a better understanding of the region's historical significance, the resilience of its people, and the role of heritage in shaping community identity.

Equal Opportunities and Leadership Skills – “You Were Born to Be a Leader” Workshop

This interactive workshop was hosted by the local informal women's group and facilitated by Dr. Kádár Beáta, a university lecturer. The workshop focused on empowering women and supporting their active participation in community life. Participants explored leadership skills, discussed challenges faced by women in civic engagement, and shared personal experiences. The session encouraged dialogue, networking, and mentoring, aiming to build confidence, strengthen leadership capacities, and inclusive participation of women in local decision-making and community development.

Community Evening – Retro Music at the Local Restaurant and Bar

The first day concluded with a community evening held at a local restaurant and bar, featuring live retro music performances. The event provided an informal and relaxed setting for participants to socialise, network, and engage with the local community.

Saturday, 9 August 2025

Guided Tour to Discover Local Communities, Landmarks, and Culture

The day began with a tour drive through the landscapes of the region, offering participants an experience of the local communities and their rich cultural heritage. The first stop was Nyergestető, an important historical site located in the Szeklerland region. This area is well-known for its role in the 1848–1849 Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence. Visitors can also enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and valleys from the nearby café. The tour continued through several remote villages, allowing participants to witness the traditional lifestyles and customs of the local inhabitants. These areas are home to the Csángó communities, a subgroup of Hungarians who have lived in the region for centuries. The final stop was the Úz Valley Military Cemetery, which is the resting place for soldiers who fought during World War I, including Hungarian, German, Austrian, and Italian troops. The site has been a main point of cultural and political discussions due to its historical significance. The guided tour was important because it provided context for civic engagement by connecting participants with the region's heritage.

Youth and Civic Participation – “Success Stories: Erasmus+ Experiences, Travels, and Friendship” Workshop

This workshop and debate brought together local youth and youth representatives from Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, and Serbia to share their experiences of Erasmus+ projects and other international exchanges. Participants discussed the impact of these programs on their personal development, civic engagement, and leadership skills, sharing stories of collaboration, cultural exchange, and friendship. The workshop encouraged active participation, reflection on opportunities for youth involvement in local and European civic life, and the building of networks to strengthen cross-border cooperation and future youth initiatives.

Local Communities Inter-Municipal Dialogue

This key session brought together mayors from Plăieșii de Jos and partner communities, alongside

representatives from NGOs, local institutions, and associations for the first structured roundtable of the project. While Plăieșii de Jos has a more than 10-year twinning relationship with Hungarian partners, representatives from Serbia and Slovakia were participating as new partners. The meeting included interactive presentations using Canva and video materials, where participants presented their communities' strengths and challenges. Participants exchanged experiences, discussed strategies for cross-border cooperation, and laid the groundwork for the next two events of the project. At the end of the session, participants provided feedback through a Google Form, helping to guide improvements for future activities and ensuring that upcoming events would build on mutual understanding and collaboration.

Sport Activities

As part of the community engagement activities, more than 100 participants took part in the mini-football tournament, while around 50 participated in the ping-pong tournament. These friendly competitions encouraged teamwork, interaction between international and local participants, and active participation in a fun and inclusive setting. Winners of both tournaments were recognised and awarded on the main stage, celebrating their achievements and developing a sense of community.

Cultural Programs and Performances

The day included performances that highlighted the artistic and cultural life of the local and regional communities. The program opened with a performance by the local pensioners' club, Ószirózsa, followed by a recital from young local classical musicians. Local, regional, and international folk-dance groups presented traditional dances, presenting the customs of minority communities. A local folk music group performed traditional songs, and the evening concluded with two live pop-rock concerts, creating a festive atmosphere that brought together participants and the wider community to celebrate culture and friendship.

Programs for Children and Families

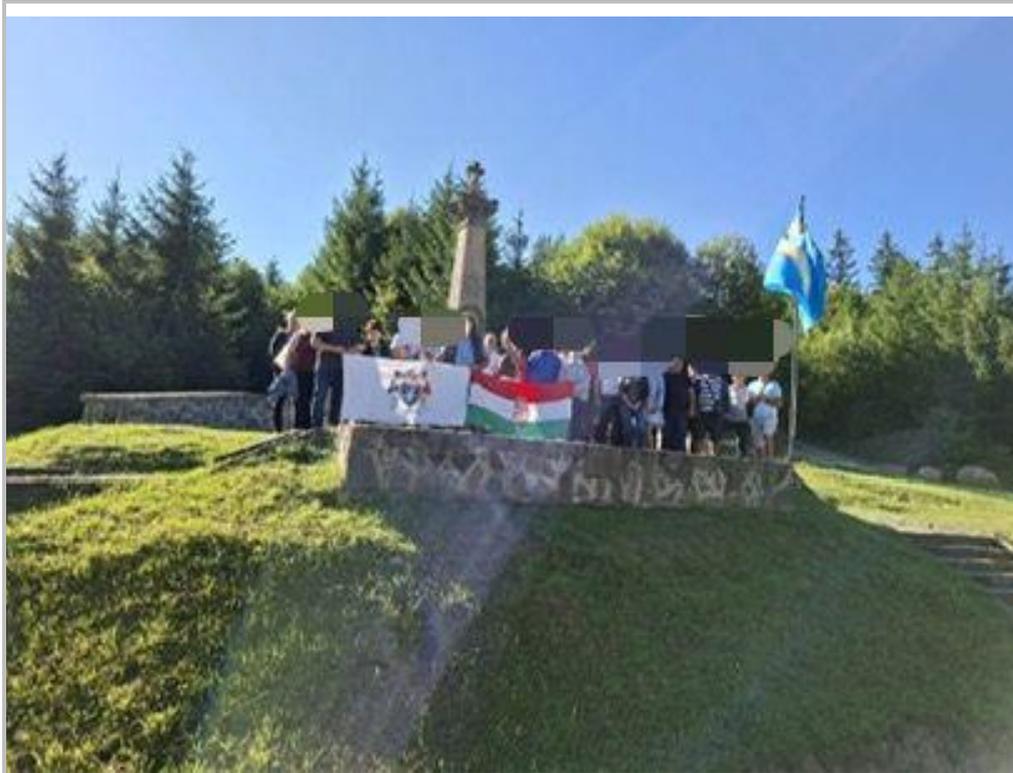
The event also offered a wide range of activities specifically designed for children and families, making sure that all age groups could actively participate. Highlights included a storytelling concert (Mesehetes), a puppet show titled *The Golden Apple*, a corner with traditional games, chalk drawing, face painting, a bouncy castle, and a small train ride. These activities created an inclusive place, encouraging families and youngsters to engage with the event, interact with other participants, and experience the cultural and community spirit of Plăieșii de Jos.

Traditional Arts and Crafts Exhibition

The event featured an exhibition where local artisans displayed their handcrafted products, showing the region's rich craft traditions. Visitors had the opportunity to get to know the local artisans and to learn the basics of various crafts, such as weaving, pottery, and embroidery. This interactive exhibition encouraged hands-on learning, cultural appreciation, and engagement with local heritage, offering participants a meaningful way to connect with the community.

The first twinning event strengthened relationships between long-standing and new partner communities, raised awareness of European values, and laid the foundation for continued collaboration in the remaining project activities. It encouraged active participation, inclusion, and community development across the partner communities.









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