

Proposal Evaluation Form



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV)

Evaluation Summary Report

Call: CERV-2021-CITIZENS-TOWN
Type of action: CERV-LS
Proposal number: 101053363
Proposal acronym: TFC
Duration (months): 18
Proposal title: The Food Club: a European Network for Social Inclusion
Activity: CERV-2021-CITIZENS-TOWN-NT

N.	Proposer name	Country	Total Cost	%	Grant Requested	%
1	Comune di Castelnuovo del Garda	IT	0	-	86,780	28.59%
2	The municipality of Prague-Kolovraty	CZ	0	-	39,640	13.06%
3	ASOCIACION BUILDING BRIDGES	ES	0	-	34,355	11.32%
4	MUNICIPALITY OF ALBA IULIA	RO	0	-	58,140	19.16%
5	COMMUNE DE SAINT-GERMAIN-EN-LAYE	FR	0	-	47,570	15.67%
6	Motii Tara de Piatra	RO	0	-	37,000	12.19%
Total:			0		303,485	

Abstract:

The EU migration crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic and the resurgence of intolerance and racism brought together a partnership focusing on increasing awareness against discrimination and promoting social inclusion. TFC uses food and local gastronomy to promote intercultural dialogue, social inclusion and to fight against racism and discrimination. The aim is to build knowledge and share best practices between partner municipalities, using food to reintegrate and promote sociality, especially after a period of forced social distancing. TFC also promotes sustainable behaviours related to food. Target groups include inhabitants of partner municipalities, encouraging the participation of natives, TCNs and people with different cultural backgrounds. Gender balance and non-discrimination will always be observed; total direct beneficiaries will count 1430 people, indirect beneficiaries will be 300000 people. Activities include workshops and study visits focusing on social food; intercultural dinners and exchanges will be promoted in each partner municipality; online events will contribute to the promotion and dissemination of results. Each event has been designed upon the specific characteristics of each municipality, their social environment and opportunities for the inclusion of all. Expected outcomes are Improved knowledge on the use of food to foster social inclusion; Increased awareness on diversity as a benefit for society; Increased understanding on environmental issues; Stronger and long-lasting connections between partner municipalities; Increased and widespread social inclusion, integration and acceptance; Higher participation of local populations to municipal events; Lower numbers of racially motivated crimes at the municipal/country level. The outputs produced will include periodical reports, a cookbook containing the recipes produced during the activities, articles, blogposts, social media content and a handbook on best practices experimented by the partnership.

Evaluation Summary Report

Evaluation Result

Total score: 86.50 (Threshold: 70)

Criterion 1 - Relevance

Score: **36.00** (Threshold: 25/40.00 , Weight: -)

The detailed criteria are set out in the call conditions (see Call document).

The application reflects the objectives and priorities of the call for proposals. The project proposal is relevant and the application is clearly defining its objectives, it contributes to the European Commission priorities "European Green Deal" and "A stronger Europe in the world".

The proposal is highly relevant and deals with a number of key objectives as well as key priorities that fit well with the call 'Network of Towns'. It focuses on the rise of intolerance and racism in the context of the European Migration Crisis and the COVID pandemic. It plans to provide key solutions emerging at the local level to several social problems. As such it has the aim to increase, between others, active citizenship through the promotion of exchanges between citizens and municipalities, to promote awareness against discrimination and social inclusion, to develop European belonging and mutual understanding.

As such, the general objectives are clear and the proposal is well contextualized in terms of rationale and background. The proposal commits to gender mainstreaming, and to the inclusion of specific groups such as young people, marginalized groups and people with disabilities.

The overall proposal is well developed, with a needs assessment based on reliable data describing the relevance of the project. The assessment is well documented and informed with data research at local, national and EU level.

This is supported by relevant data discussing the situation of international migrants at different levels (Global, European, in the municipalities involved) with different relevant information regarding gender equality. There is a clear display of data regarding different subgroups of migrants and information in support of specific needs of its target groups segmented according to evidence based data. The concrete objectives of the project correspond and address those identified needs.

As such there is an excellent overview of the needs of people with different backgrounds and minorities that support the key argument at the background of the project: that of increasing social inclusion, integration and of removing inequalities and discrimination. A shortcoming is that, even though there is clarity in regard to the key target groups, the organisation of the discussion around key target groups is patchy and not always consistent from a comparative perspective.

At the same time, there is a strong rationale and justification provided by the consortium to create a network of town to tackle social exclusion.

Even though there is a clear outline of the elements from this report and of the political debate that shaped the current proposal- there is not a clear outline of key policy recommendations. It is unclear how the project results will contribute to EU legislation. There is a great potential that needs to be further developed.

The transfer of good practices is correctly described with the implementation of multiple international events taking place in each participating countries and the creation of project's outputs that include a Handbook and diverse dissemination materials. It outlines pathways for establishing transnational links that are meant to guide municipal policies.

The transnational and European dimension are well explained, there is involvement of six municipalities and NGOs that come from 5 different countries. There is a good explanation of how these municipalities integrate with each other, even though a shortcoming regards the lack of discussion on the role assumed by the NGO included on behalf of Soto del Real.

The synergy with specific local actions, the transfer of good practices to other EU countries and the development of cross border cooperation are properly addressed and clear, however a shortcoming is the lack of considerations regarding to which areas inside and outside the EU good practices can be transferred.

Criterion 2 - Quality

Score: **35.00** (Threshold: 0/40.00 , Weight: -)

The detailed criteria are set out in the call conditions (see Call document).

The proposal is coherent. The work packages propose workshops, seminars, conferences, training and study visits based on the concept of food as a social factor bringing people with different cultural backgrounds together. It is suggested to further develop the description of the concrete actions in order to ensure full consistency with its objectives.

There is a clear logical chain between the need's assessment and the described activities. The work plan is precisely specified, and the events and activities are clearly identified.

From a methodological point of view the proposal is clearly grounded on principles of inclusivity (through for instance the promotion of the active participation of citizenship) and by taking into account the priority to maintain high standards in terms of gender mainstreaming. Conceptually, there is a very good and strong justification of how the key angle of the proposal, that of food, is going to be utilized as a key social tool. This approach, that the consortium deals with by following a bottom-up approach, convincingly characterizes the implementation of key activities and actions. The methodological construction feeds into the way the proposal tackles the second main objective of the proposal itself.

The organisation, communication among partners, available resources and team are appropriate to support the planned work packages and actions. The proposed general methodology required to implement these events is appropriate and it is suggested to further develop it to implement a quality and coherent project.

The coordinator and partner organisations have easy access to the target group in their municipalities and organisations It remains unclear what plan of action will be taken to ensure the sustainability of the project in the midterm, and how the local groups will continue acting at the end of the project.

The proposer has not adequately explained how the meaningful participation of the target group will be ensured from the preparation till the follow up of the project.

In terms of operational capacity, the leading institution and the partners in the proposal provide evidence of possessing experience and expertise in a number of relevant projects that can be transferred on the present proposal. The leading institution has competences to coordinate the project. A concern however is the subcontracting to an external entity of specific tasks for project coordination and more specifically for technical assistance in the preparation of the reporting.

Tasks are distributed fairly across the consortium. These are subdivided clearly and on this regards the division of roles is well crafted. It is also clear how the different municipalities complement each other in terms of objectives in the work plan.

Risks are clearly identified and mitigation measures are convincing. The risk management is adequately detailed in the structural elements of the project. The identified risks include an assessment on Probability, Impact and Likelihood.

There are well defined objectives set for each of the planned events. In addition each work package identifies clear milestones and deliverables.

The proposal mentions a continuous monitoring of the project and the collection of feedback from participants in the activities. The applicant requests a budget line for the subcontracting of an external evaluator to support this process.

Ethical issues are well identified, including the interactions among the diverse actors involved in the project.

Criterion 3 - Impact

Score: **15.50** (Threshold: 0/20.00 , Weight: -)

The detailed criteria are set out in the call conditions (see Call document).

The expected results are ambitious and describe a significant impact of the project on the target group. There is a clear identification of a number of expected impacts, both in terms of short term and long term effects of the proposal on target groups and the general public. Tangible changes for the target groups are identified and the proposal clearly outlines direct and indirect beneficiaries of the key activities that are planned throughout. A shortcoming is that most of the expected results are predictions regarding the results of the project. There is a lack of discussion regarding the actual measures and indicators, either quantitative or qualitative, that are going to be put in place in order to

ensure validity and reliability.

The project proposal needs more elaboration on concrete strategy to allow the planned activities to produce tangible changes on the target group. The engagement of the target group along the whole process is not developed. Methods need further definition.

The proposal describes the expected outcomes and the multiplier effect of the planned actions as able to generate long term impact in the local population. The proposal convincingly integrates multiple references to the intention of having a long term impact in the municipalities and its citizenry. Besides the expected social cohesion, the proposal includes the creation of a handbook with all these practices and there is an important investment on reporting and external evaluation.

The applicant states the intention to continue the project development after its conclusion through the continuous support of the municipalities. There is a clear and robust discussion regarding the sustainability of the results after the end of the proposal, with a clear identification of the aspects that could be replicated in other countries and more specifically municipalities. As such, the consortium commits to develop a macro model fostering social inclusion and integration and fighting against racism and discrimination, but also bottom up smaller scale micro experiences based on the best practices suggested by the consortium. There is also a clear consideration regarding possible synergies with activities dealing with the same topic in the EU.

It is also written that "the results of this project proposal are also meant to pave the way to and support the development of new related initiatives in the partner municipalities or in their greater area".

The proposal describes a well thought dissemination strategy. Results will be collected in a Handbook of good practices and recommendations available on the project's website and social networks and on those of the participating organisations. The proposal includes dissemination through multiple channels in each municipality including: media communication, a website dedicated to the project, multimedia materials: photos and videos, and open online events.

The dissemination and communication strategy is well described and comprises the use of a number of traditional means of communication (for instance press releases) with activities planned through the active use of social media. There is account for the visibility of EU funding. There is a clear explanation of how communication and dissemination activities will contribute to the promotion of gender equality and non-discrimination. There is account for the potential positive multiplayer effect of the proposal, with an identification of the instruments of communication that are meant to guarantee this (for instance through web communication or online events).

Scope of the proposal

Status: **Yes**

Comments (in case the proposal is out of scope)

Not provided

Ethics and EU values

Status: **Yes**

Not provided

For applicants which work directly with children, do they have an adequate child protection policy in place (see [Keeping Children Safe Child Safeguarding Standards](#))?

Not applicable

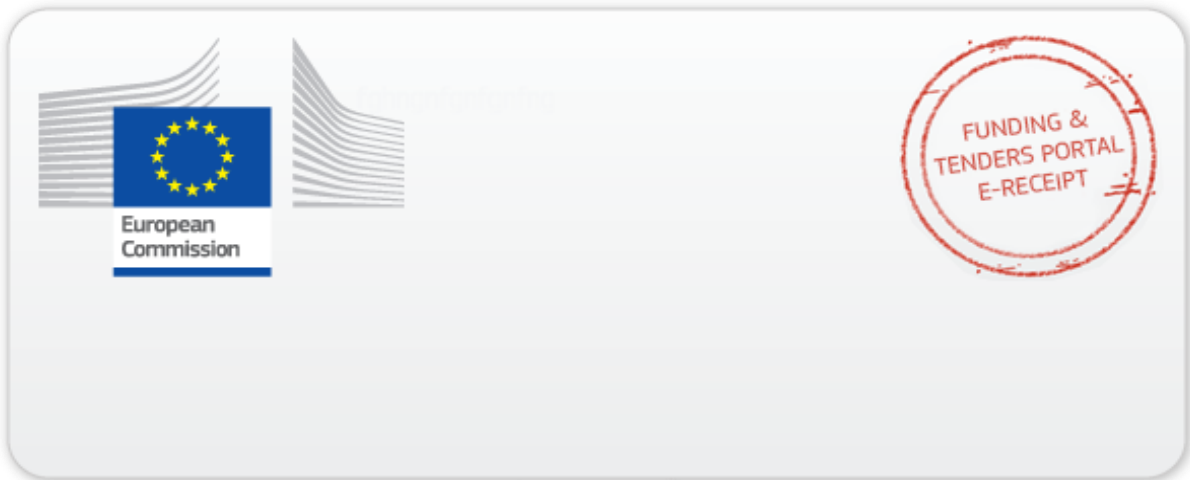
Project budget

General comments on the project budget:

Not provided

Overall comments

Not provided



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