

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	
Project name and acronym:	The Food Club: a European Network for Social Inclusion 101053363 — TFC
Participant:	Alba Iulia Municipality
PIC number:	952991536

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP 9		
Event name:	Event in Romania II EDS		
Type:	culinary experience		
In situ/online:	<i>In situ</i>		
Location:	Romania, Alba Iulia		
Date(s):	12.10.2022		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.apulum.ro/index.php/primaria/detail/7883 https://www.foodclub.blog/category/results/		
Participants			
Female:	23		
Male:	18		
Non-binary:			
From country 1 France:	2		
From country 2 Italy:	3		
From country 3 Czech Republic:	3		
From country 4 Spain:	2		
From country 5 Romania:	31		
Total number of participants:	41	From total number of countries:	5
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
Event in Romania II EDS (in situ, the culinary experience)			
The event was attended by 41 people from 5 countries, representatives of partner municipalities			

(Delegations travelling), relevant local stakeholders (NGOs, public institutions, producers, restaurants, etc.). Specifically, the target group of this activity included representatives of partner municipalities and locals representing various associations working in the field of social inclusion, together with local stakeholders working in the field of food production and distribution, all invited by the Mayor of Alba Iulia. Volunteers from the Association of the blind in Romania – Alba Iulia branch – also participated in the event, learning important aspects of TFC project, improving their knowledge on EU fundings and opportunities and helping blindfolded participants to navigate the room and deeply experience the meal in blind people's shoes.

Journey to the unseen date - blind:

To better understand the needs of the blind, AIM hosted a "table in the dark" for the participants (partner representatives and relevant local stakeholders). Each person involved was blindfolded and led to the table where he would eat. In this way, they have experienced the replacement of vision with the sense of touch, using cutlery, glasses, identifying food by smell and taste, listening to what is happening around, but without seeing what they have and who they have in front of them or around them.

The workshop was attended by representatives of the association of the blind in Romania – Alba Iulia branch, including a blind person. She explained to the participants how the blind identify the products on the plate, using the watch face method as orientation. She also explained to participants how she functions in her everyday life, highlighting all the regular actions she can perform alone and the ones she needs assistance to accomplish. It was very interesting for participants as they learned how they can improve blind people's life and tasks by doing some small gestures when meeting them on the streets, so they can ease their path and help them be totally independent even outside their own house. Questions were asked to this representative, to make sure all the concepts of social inclusion towards blind people were clear and understood by all participants.

When guests were able to see again, they shared their lived experience and impressions. Participants were asked to describe their experience while blindfolded: everyone expressed different emotions, like fear of being unable to eat, impossibility of taking food from the plate and strange feeling to talk to people without seeing them. This experience was overall evaluated by participants as very positive and instructive, as they managed to really understand the struggles that blind people face when interacting with people who can see. They also learnt how to facilitate blind people in public spaces, which is very important in terms of full social inclusion and understanding of diversity, conceived as a strength for society, and not as a default. The association of blind people and its representative were also very satisfied with the activity, as they perceived a very good and stimulating response from participants, who showed great interest in the topics addressed.

Overall, the activity ran smoothly, with a positive and very appreciated outcome from both parts (organizers and participants). No problems were encountered during the event.

Throughout the activities, multimedia materials were made, which were materialized in a final film presenting activities: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUV2Cx-5IGU>

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