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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:	Comune di Colliano- Obec Oravská Polhora
PIC number:	PIC Colliano 880640206 PIC Oravská Polhora 905503246
Project name and acronym:	"The role of Citizens in economic, social and environmental sustainability. Acronym TOCS

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	1		
Event name:	Kick off meeting		
Type:	Conference, workshop, round table and festival.		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Slovakia- Oravska Polhora		
Date(s):	October, 18, 19, 20, 2024		
Website(s) (if any):			
Participants			
Female:	56		
Male:	56		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [SLOVAKIA]:	56 Participants from Italy		
From country 2 [ITALY]:	56 Participants from Slovakia		
Total number of participants:	112	From total number of countries:	2

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Fifty-six citizens of Colliano left Italy on October 17, 2024, for Slovakia. On the evening of the 17th, arriving around 8:00 PM, we stayed overnight in Krakow.

On the morning of October 18, 2024, a bus arrived from the town of Oravska Polhora and took us to Slovakia. Before lunch, the citizens of Oravska welcomed us to their town. After the project presentation, we had lunch.

In the afternoon, we held a seminar on the importance of the European Commission's Sustainable Development Goals. In a workshop, we outlined the role of citizens in becoming role models for preserving the health of the climate and mountains. During the workshop, we shared best practices and solutions for sustainable waste and forest management, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. For example, regarding waste management, we discussed Slovakia's efficient glass management system through returns at commercial premises, also exploring ideas for community composting and reducing plastic use. Regarding forest management, we shared strategies for reforestation with native, climate-resilient species and the implementation of selective cutting practices to preserve biodiversity and soil health.

In the evening, we tasted traditional Slovak dishes.

On the morning of October 19th, we visited the splendid Oravska Polhora Castle, highlighting with participants the richness of Europe's shared heritage. After lunch, we held a workshop on the role of local traditions in the process of European integration. Bagpipes were seen as a tool for expanding territorial boundaries and opening up to new cultures.

We visited the Oravska Bagpipe Museum. Players demonstrated ancient Slovak instruments linked to tradition. Representatives from Colliano also described their musical instruments. On the evening of October 19th, we held a seminar and workshop on the new EU CERV Program, specifically the Town Twinning measure and its objectives. The discussion among citizens and the delegation highlighted, in particular, the mission of the CERV program and the Town Twinning measure: strengthening a sense of belonging to Europe, promoting democracy and civic participation, and facilitating the exchange of best practices and mutual understanding between different communities. Afterward, musicians performed accompanied by ancient Slovak and Italian songs.

On the morning of October 20th, a roundtable discussion was held between Italian and Slovak team managers to define the guidelines for a new sustainability model in rural villages. This will be the main theme of the event we will hold in Italy in August.

At 12:00, we flew back to Italy from Krakow.

What follows can be considered the testimony that captures the essence of the entire event. It was a fantastic experience of cultural and human growth. Thanks to the EU and the CERV program, especially after the pandemic that isolated us from one another, the desire to connect with those who live in the same city has grown. The cultural journey that brought us together with the Oravska Polhora community has been very interesting. We were welcomed like old friends, and despite the cold, the ice quickly melted. The most moving moment was seeing the elderly bagpipe players become emotional with tears in their eyes.

On Friday, December 13th, in Colliano, we held a workshop to disseminate the results achieved by the project in the first Slovak event, connecting the two communities online for a joint feedback and planning session.

The key points can be summarized as follows:

the first event in Slovakia was held (Kick-off meeting in Oravska Polhora, October 17-20, 2024).

the development of concrete proposals for sustainable waste and forest management in rural villages, resulting from the workshops and discussions.

planning and defining guidelines for the final meeting in Italy (August 2025), focusing on a new model of rural sustainability.

organization of the hybrid workshop to disseminate the results (Friday, December 13th in Colliano), involving the two communities online for feedback and a joint planning session.

promotion of the CERV and Town Twinning Program mission (civic participation, strengthening a sense of belonging to Europe, and intercultural exchange) through discussions and activities.

<https://www.developmentaid.org/organizations/awards/view/560122/the-role-of-citizens-in-economic-social-and-environmental-sustainability-tocs>

<https://www.oravskapolhora.sk/obcan-a-samosprava/investicie-a-projekty/ostatne/tocs/>
https://www.facebook.com/ComuneColliano/?locale=it_IT

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