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EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

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⚠ Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum.)

PROJECT	
Participant:	[N1] - [Comune di Bolsena]
PIC number:	[886732194]
Project name and acronym:	[Volunteering Organisations Learning Social Integration and non-discrimination In an Inclusive Europe] — [VOLSINII-E]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	[1]
Event name:	[VOLSINII-E International Event]
Type:	[workshop]
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	[Italy], [Bolsena]
Date(s):	[19 th – 23 rd October 2023]
Website(s) (if any):	https://volsinii-e-7.webnode.it/
Participants	
Female:	139
Male:	127
Non-binary:	2
From country 1 [Italy]:	75
From country 2 [Spain]:	66
From country 3 [Germany]:	64
From country 4 [Malta]:	63
Total number of participants:	268
From total number of countries:	4

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The event took place in Bolsena, Italy and it lasted 7 days, including travel days. The event involved delegations from the municipalities of Volkertshausen, Germany, Lloret de Mar, Spain and Saint Julian's, Malta. The target groups were a wide range of citizens, PA representatives, local communities, local administrators, volunteers, volunteering associations, young people, citizens representing minorities and hard-to-reach groups. Young people have been mostly valued and targeted by the project activities.

The workshops that took place triggered debates, participative talks and discussions about the main themes of the project, such as solidarity, diversity, inclusion, volunteering and citizens engagement, bringing together PA representatives and citizens.

The first seminar and education event "EU initiatives and citizens engagement" was dedicated to the CERV programme, to disseminate EU funding opportunities and stimulate interest in engaging in projects like VOLSINII-E, which strengthen the sense of belonging to Europe, build European citizenship and friendship relationships across Europe. The seminar triggered an interesting debate about the visibility and information about EU funding possibilities and ways to support citizens' and especially young people's participation in decision-making processes.

During the workshops "A Union based on solidarity" and "United in diversity: the integration process", each delegation presented the work that they ordinarily carry out in their municipalities, giving some interesting insights into their culture, traditions and customs and giving some examples and role models in solidarity, volunteering and community help. The intercultural dialogue brought by the exchange of these experiences and traditions has fostered the cohesion and the friendship between the participants, as well as it has given a precious opportunity to engage in constructive talks about strategies for integration and inclusion, which are fundamental for a better future of Europe. An insightful debate about minorities integration in Europe was triggered, and ways to foster inclusion, mutual help and respect towards diversity were discussed. The conclusions brought to the creation of the mottos "diversity is richness" and "the energy of inclusion, not hatred", as manifestos of the multiculturalism of Europe.

The project made space for folkloristic shows by the delegations: for example, the Spanish delegation presented a famous traditional Catalan dance, an actual ball with elegant dresses where the local community was involved and invited to participate; some representatives of the German delegation dressed up as timbermen, old ladies and wild animals to show their traditional and peculiar carnival masks and their carnival customs; music and dance nights were organised by Bolsena to involve project participants in real integrational activities.

Visits and tours in Bolsena area to landmarks and points of naturalistic, historical and cultural interest as well as trips to nearby towns like Orvieto were arranged to show delegations the Italian heritage, contributing to the core objectives of fostering understanding, promoting appreciation for diversity and, ultimately, working towards a more interconnected and harmonious European community based on solidarity.

To sum up, the International Event of VOLSINII-E has been an occasion to broadly discuss the theme of solidarity and citizens' participation in decision-making processes and brainstorm on common solutions. Thanks to the event, delegations and citizens have learnt and exchanged best practices about volunteering and inclusion, engaging in group discussions and gaining knowledge about different cultures and traditions, developing a sense of belonging to the European community. At the same time, the municipalities have strengthened the friendship bonds of the network and have laid the groundwork for future cooperations.

HISTORY OF CHANGES

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