

# Project Summary European Cultures Together (ECT)

## Context and overall objectives

Describe your organisation, its mission statement, vision and activities to promote the general EU interest or EU policy objectives targeted by the call.

The Twilight Community Group through its activities endeavored to promote social inclusion & integration and advancement of all members of our communities. The main object for which Twilight Community Group was established was for the promotion integration and social inclusion of communities focusing on the needs of immigrants, ethnic minorities, disadvantage and disability groups, in the Republic of Ireland, incorporating our European connections. This was a participatory inclusion project (ECT) as we united four distinct European cultures in a collaborative process to promote awareness of the richness, the culture and language that encompasses the EU. This intergenerational programme was an inclusive co-production focusing on traditional Arts, Drama, Language, and skills. The project promoted social cohesion in an intercultural context. We achieved this through collaborative celebration of culture as we included: workshops, direct engagement, performances, arts, drama and an international parade. This built friendships, encourage integration and promoted tourism. This programme tackled the intersectional gender gap that persists in almost all cultural and creative sectors where many individuals experience discrimination based on their gender identities. (Culture Action Europe 2021). The delivery of the collaborative project recognized Article 21 (Non-Discrimination), Article 22 (Cultural, Religious & Linguistic Diversity) & Article 23 (Equality between Genders) Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union 2012.

## Work performed and main achievements

Describe the activities performed during the period covered by the EU grant and your main achievements.

### Workshops

#### History / Heritage

- 1,Agenda 1. Visit Historical Sites of the region
2. Discuss ways to collaborate on Tourism for such sites.
3. Develop intercity working groups over the 3-year period of ECT

#### Arts Drama & Performances

2. Agenda 1 Visit cultural and performance of the arts venue
- 2.View the Acts that performed over the weekend in the city (Trad Fest)
- 3 Discuss ways for arts, Drama Music to collaborate

#### Culture and Language

3. Agenda 1. Language of the EU programmes through English
2. Our Languages
- 3.How our Languages are connecting to our Culture

Female:160 Male: 60 Non-binary 10 From international invited guests 180 Total number of participants: 230

Each of the Countries and their participants took part in these Cultural, Heritage, History and language workshops. This was designed to give all the participants the opportunity to explain their country's culture to all present. This was a tremendous success we had tables of culture from across many of the Diaspora for other European Countries and beyond with the full support of their embassies here in Ireland.

## 2 • Cultural events

Partners Performance of their Culture through music song and dance. These activities took place in venues around Kilkenny City & County. Prior to the event we made contact with the Diaspora of Romania, Poland, France, plus their embassies and had their traditional groups perform as this period is a folk and Trad festival for the St Patrick's weekend. The Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco. In conjunction with TCG's ECT programme displayed 'Christians living together in Morocco' exhibition. Many Countries now attend TCG annual Conference. Moldavian Ambassador, Maltese Ambassador, Slovenian Diplomatic Corp added to the EU Demission even though were not part of the 4 groups. The Cultural Event had its main Conference/ EU Displays of Cultures in Newpark Hotel on the 16th March where the attendance topped 300 visitors which added to the 60 Romanian, 60 French ,60 Polish & Diasporas of EU & Beyond now living in Kilkenny

## 3 • Partner Team Building

As the support from across all the cohorts and ethnicity of the diverse communities now living in Kilkenny and Ireland it was vital part of ECT that we became partners and built strong working and friendship bonds. This was achieved by our Cultural Visits to Kilkenny Castle, Medieval Mile. Involving our Twilight Youth Inclusion in these events was part of the Intergenerational Section of ECT. . ECT is about bringing all the communities together, Highlighting the Culture Similarities and celebrating each's unique richness. As the support from across all the cohorts and ethnicity of the diverse communities now living in Kilkenny and Ireland it was vital part of ECT that we became partners and built strong working and friendship bonds. Female:130 Male:70 Non-binary: 15 Ireland 35 Total 250 including 180 invite foreign guests

## 4 • St Patrick's Day Parade

International festival of Culture which included the world-famous St Patrick's Day parade. Each of the partners and the other diaspora from across Europe now living in the regions of Kilkenny City & County, took part in the parade marching proudly behind their national flag and the European union flag. This event was a tremendous success as the participants from abroad made friendships with members of their communities, now living in Ireland. The success of ECT can validate by the 300+ including the international invited guest of 180 to walk behind the TCG as over 30'000 people lined the streets of Kilkenny. Adding to the success was the inclusion of Men, Women, Boys and Girls were welcome in all their diversity as Gender Equality is central to the Twilight Ethos.

This parade offered a unique opportunity for the display of culture, visibility , awareness of the diversity of today's society. It was a safe & secure environment for the marginalized communities to come forward and march in this parade without fear. It allowed the communities of Kilkenny to show their support for the marginalized communities. They welcomed all from the shadows of communities in to the main streams of society Once each group had returned we received positive feedback which validated the success of the ECT programme as all participants praised the activities and thank Twilight for organizing such a great event and the opportunity to meet their fellow country men and women now living in Ireland.

Over all the ECT 1 was a success and we can build on this for Octobers 2023 ECT 2

## Results and impacts

Describe the results of your activities during the period covered by the EU grant and their impact (on target groups, change, innovation etc.).

The targeted groups from the four partners included participants from the LGBTI+ community, Traveller, Roma, Ethnic minorities and those experiencing a socio-economic disadvantage. Collaborating helped to reduce the identified gap by celebrating diversity and promoting mutual understanding and sharing cultural experiences during the 5-day event. The presentations by the Traveller Community / Roma was one of the Highlights of the ECT 1 programme. These interactions helped promote EU values, helped to alleviate stigmatization and combat disinformation. As is well documented the Traveller and the Roma Communities get very bad press. The representative of the Traveller community acknowledged that there is a minority of Travellers who are causing the full demographic to be tarnished with the one brush and to combat this and change the mindset of the 'settled community' will take time. Therefore, cooperation like ECT will assist to alleviate this miss information. Social interaction between the diverse participants built friendships, advanced each other's cultural knowledge, promoted diversity awareness and, promoted tourism between partners We now have firm commitment for to increase

cooperation on all levels and to work together on sectors of interest to all involved to build social bonds and partnerships of like-minded organizations and institutions

EU Grants: Event description sheet (CERV): V1.0 Ref. Ares(2023)4988821 - 18/07/2023– 01.04.2022

## 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:	101053588-Twilight Community Group (TCG)
PIC number:	904997894
Project name and acronym:	European Cultures Together —ECT

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	1
Event name:	Cultures of EU
Type:	Workshops
In situ/online:	In Situ
Location:	Ireland
Date(s):	15 -20 March 2023
Website(s) (if any):	www.twilight.ie <a href="https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/your_council/council_meetings/municipal-districts/">https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/your_council/council_meetings/municipal-districts/</a>
Participants	
Female:	160
Male:	60
Non-binary:	10
From country 1 Romania]:	60
From country 2 France]:	60

From country 3 Poland]:	60		
Ireland ...	50		
Total number of participants:	230	From total number of countries:	4

## Description

*Provide a short description of the event and its activities.*

The work Shops were held from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. We designed it this way so as to allow a group from each of the partners to join the workshops of specific interest to their background and field of expertise. Had historical visits to the city and the attendees for this are listed per country. As due to the large volumes we decided the workshops should be divided into 2 workshops per theme

- Agenda :
1. Visit Historical Sites of the region
  2. Discuss ways to collaborate on Tourism for such sites.
  3. Develop intercity working groups over the 3-year period of ECT

The historical Workshop took in the Kilkenny Castle, St Canice's round Tower and the Medieval Mile Museum. All partners have strong historical sites and the four partners have a strong tourism sector built around their 4 castles. This was one of the outcomes we were trying to achieve by bring building a team to see the opportunities of our 4 Cities for tourism. An expected outcome was achieved where we will now see POP up Tourism Shops venues offered to each partner, and to continue to build our partnerships through cooperation and exchange of good practices and organisations such a youth through Erasmus + programmes. Such activities were agreed by the Youth leaders and discussions on joint projects are now under way for the September / October 2023 deadlines. This was part of the Arts and drama workshops.

### Work Shop 2.

#### Agenda

1. Visit cultural and performance of the arts venue
2. View the Acts that performed over the weekend in the city (Trad Fest)
3. Discuss ways for arts, Drama Music to collaborate

All participants attend the ARTS & DRAM as it was part of the Entertainment for the ECT event with performances throughout the city This was one that many felt was the most entertaining and as it was to visit acts performing during the festival at city venues many more delegates attend these are they were evening events while the other workshops were during day time business hours. The outcomes we were trying to achieve which did materialise were, Positive Interaction, Respecting Cultural Diversity, Cross Border Friendships. When it comes to the arts and music our younger generations have a very vibrant view to how to interact. Cross boarder musical and drama performances built into an Erasmus programme was suggested. These are now been developed with our Twilight Youth Inclusion and like-minded youth groups in the partners cities

### Work Shop 3

#### Culture and Language

1. Language of the EU programmes through English
2. Our Languages
3. How our Languages are connecting to our Culture

All the participants agreed with the concept of the EU that all the programmes are to be conducted through English. Some felt they were at a disadvantage when presenting their programmes but agreed there has to be a one way to present to all countries. They were very strong in stating that applications MUST remain in their traditional language

This kick started the debate we had intended. Every countries language is a very strong part of their heritage, culture. A Syed Mustafis stated he was concerned that amount of languages dying every year and would like to see the partners promote the Mother tongue Day every year. The majority agreed with his view point and we should look to how it may be added to the ECT programme going forward.

To highlight the importance of our Native language we recorded a full interview with one of our guest speakers Mr Sean O Hargain

<https://youtu.be/58WLTAbb9Jk>

This highlighted the Positive Interaction and promoted the Respecting Cultural Diversity and Cross Border Friendships and culture and languages always Increase Self- Worth and by the discussion on English as the language to present all the programmes of the EU programmes Recognition of EU Values. All were part of our Expected outcomes

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

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PROJECT	
Participant:	101053588-Twilight Community Group (TCG)
PIC number:	904997894
Project name and acronym:	European Cultures Together —ECT

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	2		
Event name:	Cultures of EU		
Type:	Conference		
In situ/online:	In Situ		
Location:	Ireland		
Date(s):	16th March 2023		
Website(s) (if any):	www.twilight.ie		
Participants			
Female:	200		
Male:	100		
Non-binary:	15		
From country 1 Romania]:	60		
From country 2 France]:	60		
From country 3 Poland]:	60		
Ireland ...	135		
Total number of participants:	315	From total number of countries:	4
Description			
Provide a short description of the event and its activities.			

This was a full day event in New park Hotel Kilkenny Ireland with guest speakers, performances and Cultural Displays is the one event, apart from the parade, where we have the full compliment of Partners Invitees in the one auditorium. We had this event to allow all the participants and other invited groups to show their cultures to each other. This event had display tables to Performances for the European Cultures Together project. We had identified the Arts & Music, History & Heritage, Culture & Languages as the main aspect of ECT. Each were separate workshops the previous day. These are the parts of our Individual Cultures components that travel across all borders and oceans. Every culture is made up of these components and though they may be different in our cultural event we show they similarities we have that will connect us at the event held 16<sup>th</sup> March but on in to the second and third instalments of the ECT project.

<https://youtu.be/Pcxlb87WsnA> Testimonial Samantha Joyce @KTCM speaks to at the European Cultures Together Conference 2023

<https://youtu.be/WoqkwO8no60> Bernie Power from KTCM and the importance of the Traveller's Culture as part of society and the overall ECT project

Our Events over the years Have attracted many of the Embassies to Ireland. TCG international Conferences is a place where many diplomats come and interact with each other and promote the TCG Ethos of Inclusion, Equality and Diversity. In 2022/23 Twilight Community Group were awarded the Business of the Years award for Inclusion, Diversity and Equality

[Twilight Are Business Award winners 2022 – Twilight Community Group](#)

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

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

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PROJECT	
Participant:	101053588-Twilight Community Group (TCG)
PIC number:	904997894
Project name and acronym:	European Cultures Together —ECT

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	3
Event name:	Cultures of EU
Type:	Partners team building
In situ/online:	In Situ
Location:	Ireland

<b>Date(s):</b>	15 -20th March 2023		
<b>Website(s) (if any):</b>	www.twilight.ie		
<b>Participants</b>			
Female:	130		
Male:	70		
Non-binary:	15		
From country 1 Romania]:	60		
From country 2 France]:	60		
From country 3 Poland]:	60		
Ireland ...	35		
Total number of participants:	215	From total number of countries:	4
<b>Description</b>			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>As the support from across all the cohorts and ethnicity of the diverse communities now living in Kilkenny and Ireland it was vital part of ECT that we became partners and built strong working and friendship bonds. This was achieved by our Cultural Visits to Kilkenny Castle, our Medieval Mile and involving our youth in these events and guest to Castle Comer Discovery and adventure Park. Our Partners members, Alexandra Negrei, Katarzyna Fabianska, &amp; Philip Richer were instrumental in organizing these Team Building events. Kilkenny now has a multicultural population. ECT is about bringing all the communities together. Building Intercultural Activities and Programmes.</p> <p>The team building events were built around the other day's events of Workshops Conference and the Parade through the streets of Kilkenny. Kilkenny Castle is known worldwide. Twilight had a personally guide tours of the historical site where Mr Frank Kavanagh gave the full history of the castle and its grounds. We are very fortunate to have Mr Kavanagh's knowledge and expertise; Frank is now retired having worked for over 50 years on the estate of the Butlers of Ormand and William the Conquers conquest in Ireland</p> <p>Our Team building events included, the Castle, Kilkenny St Canice's Round  Tower, Moses Pottery Meeting with the Historical and Commerce groups and visits ton the  Mayors Parlour as we developed the Team building exercise for the ECT  programme. These events had a intergenerational approach as the diversity of the attendees and the Twilight Youth Inclusion group's Participation with youth leaders from our partners. Our Youth Leader Nikolas Lesniak conducted the VOX Pop Interviews with a variety of guest to Conference 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023</p> <p>Here is the link to all these Testimonials  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYP5r1UFZrEWs8MqIGukxuBEPcEV9au23">https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYP5r1UFZrEWs8MqIGukxuBEPcEV9au23</a></p>			

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PROJECT	
Participant:	-101053588Twilight Community Group (TCG)
PIC number:	904997894
Project name and acronym:	European Cultures Together —ECT

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	4
Event name:	Cultures of EU
Type:	St Patricks Day parade
In situ/online:	In Situ
Location:	Ireland
Date(s):	17th March 2023
Website(s) (if any):	www.twilight.ie
Participants	
Female:	180
Male:	120
Non-binary:	20
From country 1 Romania]:	60
From country 2 France]:	60
From country 3 Poland]:	60
Ireland ...	140
Total number of participants:	180
From total number of countries:	4
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	
<p>Participation in the International festival  <b>In Kilkenny to celebrate the patron Saint of Ireland and our national Day where 30000 people from across the country come to the medieval capital of Ireland to view this popular parade. All participants marched proudly behind the national flags as a strong show of solidarity of European Cultures Together programme</b></p>	



This event is a highlight on the annual calendar of not only Kilkenny but Ireland's List of Festivals

The objective of this part of our ECT is to provide the visibility and create awareness of the many martialized groups in our Cultures of Europe Our partners and the local diaspora and minority groups locally, national can show their diversity to all who gather for this special event. It is a safe, secure environment where diversity is allowed, and encouraged to be displayed. With the delegates from Poland, Romania and France it let our ECT have a group of over 300+ in the parade, despite the very inclement weather on the day. The rain did not dampen the enthusiasm of the 180 delegates who were part of the ECT foreign Visitors to Kilkenny.

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

