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:	[101081343] - [INSTITUT FUR ROMA UND MINDERHEITEN EV] (IRM)
PIC number:	[915648185]
Project name and acronym:	[COMFORT ZONE! Democracy and e-democracy thank to life skills improvement, participative cultural researches and creative laboratories] — [ETM - DEL]

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	[7]		
Event name:	[Participation and Inclusion of Minorities]		
Type:	[workshop]		
In situ/online:	*[*in-situ*]*		
Location:	[Germany], [Loerrach]		
Date(s):	[26/11/2023]		
Website(s) (if any):	https://irm-inclusion.eu/		
Participants			
Female:	5		
Male:	24		
Non-binary:			
From country 1 [Germany]:	29		
From country 2 […]:			
From country 3 […]:			
…			
Total number of participants:	29	From total number of countries:	1
Description *Provide a short description of the event and its activities.*			
COMFORT ZONE: PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSION OF MINORITIES – Loerrach, Germany			

EVENT DESCRIPTION

TARGET GROUP

The event gathered a total 29 participants, migrants and minorities with legal residency permits in Germany. The event was attended also by social workers and interested local persons. Most of the participants are with primary education, some with secondary school and a few with university degrees.

All of the participants belong to different groups of minorities. The participants belonged to other groups of minorities as well: gender, sexual orientation, education level, language etc.

THE TOPIC

Participation and Inclusion of minorities was a jointly agreed topic with 8 participants in the preparatory phase. Participants constantly demonstrate interest by asking social workers about their participation in the society and the possible opportunities for inclusion and integration.

The main idea of most of the participants was to speak about the knowledge of the past, to share lessons they have learned about democratic mechanisms in Germany. Some even shared a fear of marginalisation. They are aware about the language barrier but also because of the lack of knowledge about the current environment of living.

Local people pose this question in local media or directly to municipality authorities – how can migrant and minority groups participate in a democratic society as German society.

Often they complain about the lack of participation in their countries of origin but they expect that Germany (as a democratic country) should provide/open opportunities for different groups of minorities who seek for their place to be included in the social, economic, health and public life in the area where they live. In this case – more than 300 migrants are in town and their participation is important in order to bring benefits both for the immigrants themselves and for the German society in general.

STRUCTURE OF THE ACTIVITIES

-The preparatory activity was a laboratory, involving a group of 8 – educators and activists.

-The main event, the debate, is a follow-up of constant communication with social workers in the city of Loerrach, Germany.

Personal invitations were sent to participants and the format was communicated. The entire program was explained during the invitation but also at the very beginning of the event.

The Debate consisted of a total of four parts.

The First part was the joint breakfast debate. Participants had a floor to talk without any particular regulations during a breakfast prepared by one migrant family. The main debate question was: “What do you think about your personal and general

participation of minorities''. It was an excellent hook for fruitful discussion because almost everybody wanted to share his or her perspective of view. There were plenty of complaints shared about the limited participation mainly in the labour sector. Moreover they feel that companies are looking for skills, knowledge and experience, while the religious or ethnic background is not considered a barrier.

More precisely, religion is not a reason to be rejected for a professional workplace. The difference between Democratic and non-democratic societies in theory was explained by PhD Alexander Boehmler at the end of the debate.
The second part was the discussion about the possibilities to participate. The participants were divided into two groups. They had the same task: to write down all the participation possibilities they are aware about and present it to the other group. After both groups presented the group brainstorming outcomes, they came with some joint points such as: Participation in education, participation in labour market, participation in different clubs such as the Alevi Civil Society organisation or Caritas organised women clubs, participation in adult education such as German language courses, participation in sport activities, membership in libraries and different interest groups, using public transportation, using health services. All the mentioned points were presented as possibilities for participation without fear to face prejudices or discrimination.
The third part was a light form of public forum debate about the benefits of participation in democratic societies. There was a small group of participants who were not happy with their participation in society, so this was a good opportunity to listen to their challenges and compare with the actual mechanisms of participation in theory.
The fourth part was an interactive presentation about the new skilled worker immigration law. After every slide there was an example about the article presented. After every example 1-2 questions were collected and responded.
The evaluation took place at the end. The link with the questions was projected at the wall.
There were difficulties with the evaluation as the last page of the website was showing an error. Participants were asked to try doing the evaluation again at home in the upcoming days.

SCOPE OF THE ACTIVITIES

The prevailing theme was the scope of mechanisms of participation and their access for minorities such who face language barriers.
The activities contained face to face individual talk to participants and planning together at the very first phase.
The second phase envisaged organising an event together, preparing breakfast for participants.
The main scope of activities included debate, discussion, presentation, questions and answers.

It is important to underline that during the debate, most of the participants learned regulations about different formats of debate. Older participants faced challenges in respecting regulations of debate, but younger participants adjusted very fast and started using principles of debating.
The debate itself was a mechanism of participation - this was noticed by younger participants.

PROGRAM:

12:00 Joint breakfast debate. Gemeinsames Frühstück Debatte.
Participation in Democratic Vs Participation in Non-Democratic Societies (The Case of Germany);
Teilnahme in Demokratische Gesellschaft vs. nichtdemokratische Gesellschaft;
13:00 Talking about minority participation – how can we participate?
Gespräch über Beteiligung von Minderheiten – wie können wir teilnehmen?
14:00 Lunch break. Zusammen Mittag essen.
15:00 Debatte –
What are the benefits of our participation?
Welchen Nutzen haben wir von unserer Teilnahme?
16 :00 Interactive Presentation
The new skilled worker immigration law.
Das neue Fachkräfteeinwanderungsgesetz.
16:45 Evaluation. Auswertung.

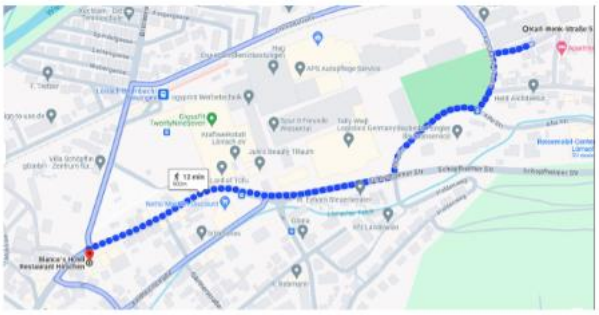
METHODOLOGIES USED

Countering disinformation and other forms of interference in the democratic debate and promoting media literacy, in the logic of contrasting the propaganda processes that have left a strong cultural imprint in border areas, while allowing the development of life skills useful to the young citizens for decoding media information, read it with a critical mind, and formulate a personal thought on democratic tools, were practices at the center of the work in this event.
Media literacy is an important element in countering disinformation especially by social media who intent to reach visibility through being present frequently and financially benefit from the visibility while the content is not helpful in the process of integration of minorities. The content is attractive – that secures more clicks, but most of the receivers have extremely low media literacy and cannot properly understand the content, which in this case is of an extreme importance for their residency, and stay in a foreign but democratic country.
The civil society voiced out the need to educate young people by gathering perceptions about contemporary European history, values and mechanists. The focus should be education about mechanisms of democracy, which serve minorities in a democratic and developed society.
During the event itself the following methodologies were used:
Combination of Parliamentary and Public Forum (PF) Debate. We applied an open buffet breakfast so people can feel comfortable and feel in their Comfort Zone.

It was jointly concluded during the joint planning that Immigrants coming from Turkey and Afghanistan feel they talk mostly through breakfast. We enabled proper space so they feel safe, comfortable and motivated to share perceptions. Presentation was used to explain different democratic mechanisms of participation and elaborate part of the new immigration law.

Project Collaborators: PhD Alexander Boehmler, Richard Rinklin, Adem Ademi, Nersida Arapi, Simge Avlik, Fidan Bal

Project Venue: Bianca's Restaurant and Hotel Hirschen (12 min walk from the GU Brombach)



Event Start: 12:00

Group organiser: Adem Ademi and Richard Rinklin

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