

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:	1 - Asociación Ciudades Interculturales – Diversit
PIC number:	907227712
Project name and acronym:	Sports for Participation, Inclusion, Respect, Interculturality and Tolerance — SPIRIT

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	1		
Event name:	Transnational workshop on the key role of cities and sport in promoting intercultural integration, Bilbao		
Type:	Workshop - seminar		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Spain, Bilbao		
Date(s):	22 - 23 of January, 2026		
Website(s) (if any):	https://proyectospirit.eu https://proyectospirit.eu/eventos/		
Participants			
Female:	42		
Male:	38		
Non-binary:			
From country 1 [Spain]:	66		
From country 2 [Italy]:	4		
From country 3 [Portugal]:	5		
From country 4 [Germany]:	2		
From country 5 [Sweden]:	3		
Total number of participants:	80	From total number of countries:	5
Description			
Provide a short description of the event and its activities.			

The event gathered **80 participants**, representing a diverse range of institutional and sectoral profiles. Attendees included representatives from public administrations at different governance levels (local, provincial and regional) as well as civil society organisations, sport clubs, federations and other sport-related stakeholders.

In terms of territorial diversity, the workshop brought together representatives from 15 cities, including the 10 cities directly involved in the SPIRIT project, as well as other municipalities from the Basque Country (such as Getxo, Urnieta, Etxebarri and Donostia-San Sebastián) and other Spanish territories, including Madrid. This diversity reinforced the European and multi-level dimension of the event.

The transnational workshop in Bilbao marked the official launch of the SPIRIT project and the implementation of Work Package 1 (WP1).

The event combined:

- A public European seminar focused on sport policies, inclusion and interculturality.
- Internal working sessions dedicated to methodological alignment, governance clarification and operational planning.

The workshop gathered representatives from 5 countries (Spain, Portugal, Italy, Germany and Sweden), including partner cities, associated cities, networks, regional authorities, civil society organisations and sport entities.

Main results and outputs of the workshop:

- Formal political launch of SPIRIT at European level
- Shared understanding of governance and WP sequencing
- Identification of common risks and capacity needs
- Validation of visual identity
- Agreement on Local Hub methodology & basis established for WP2 diagnosis implementation

1. PUBLIC SESSION – MULTI-LEVEL POLICY PERSPECTIVE

Institutional Opening

The event began with an official institutional opening, ensuring clear political representation and multi-level commitment.

Opening remarks were delivered by:

- The City Council of Bilbao,
- The Provincial Council (Diputación Foral de) of Bizkaia, and
- Diversit as project coordinator.

This opening underlined the political relevance of the project and positioned SPIRIT within broader public commitments to social cohesion, equality and democratic coexistence in increasingly diverse urban contexts. The presence of political representatives reinforced the message that sport policy is not merely operational, but strategic and governance-oriented.

Keynote Lecture – Academic Framework

The institutional opening was followed by a keynote lecture delivered by Dr. Juan Aldaz (University of the Basque Country – EHU).

The keynote provided a conceptual and academic framing of sport policies for integration and intercultural coexistence. It introduced a critical reflection on how sport policies can move from neutral service provision to intentional instruments for equality, social justice and interaction.

Drawing from research and governance analysis, the lecture emphasised:

- The need to integrate equity considerations into sport policy design;
- The importance of cross-sectoral coordination;
- The risks of assuming sport is inherently inclusive without structural adaptation;
- The potential of sport as a policy arena for strengthening democratic values and belonging.

This academic input provided a rigorous foundation for the subsequent policy and practice discussions.

The public part of the workshop was designed to frame sport as a public policy tool for social cohesion and intercultural coexistence, addressing three complementary levels:

A. Public policy and strategic governance

This segment focused on how sport can be integrated into strategic planning frameworks. Examples included:

- The [Bilbao Kirolak Strategic Sports Plan 2025–2028](#), highlighting the “Kirolak Social” axis as an innovative approach embedding inclusion and equality within strategic sport governance.
- The [KIROLA ON tool](#) developed by the Diputación Foral de Bizkaia (regional level), addressing prevention of violence in school sport environments.

- The Gipuzkoa guide on [well-being and inclusion of women of diverse origins through sport](#).

This block demonstrated how sport can be institutionalised within strategic planning at both municipal and regional levels, reinforcing transversal coordination across departments (sport, social inclusion, youth, equality).

B. City-level experiences – Intercultural sport practices

A roundtable of European cities presented concrete initiatives illustrating how sport can foster:

- Participation and community engagement;
- Youth empowerment;
- Gender equality;
- Trust-building in diverse contexts.

Experiences included initiatives from Cascais, Zagarolo, Erlangen, Linköping and Bilbao (Socio-Sport Mediation Service – Harreragune). The objective was not only to showcase practices but to highlight governance models, challenges and transferability potential.

C. Civil society and community-based initiatives

The final segment featured grassroots and foundation-led initiatives (Kunina, Bihotz Kantxa, BAKUVA, Playground4All, IBILKI), demonstrating how sport can operate as:

- A protective environment for vulnerable youth;
- A neighbourhood activation tool;
- A vehicle for inclusion and equal opportunities.

This structure intentionally illustrated the complementarity between public authorities, regional governments and civil society actors, reinforcing SPIRIT's multi-actor approach. It was agreed that the practices presented will be systematised and disseminated in a structured "Good Practices" format, beyond the minutes, to maximise European transferability.

2. INTERNAL WORKING SESSIONS – METHODOLOGICAL ALIGNMENT

The internal sessions aimed to ensure a shared understanding of the project structure, clarify roles and initiate operational planning.

2.1 Project structure and governance

The full architecture of SPIRIT (WP1–WP25) was presented, including:

- Sequential logic: Diagnosis → Local Hubs → National Training → Local Action Plans → Pilot Actions → Campaign → Final European exchange
- Timeline 2026–2027
- Milestones and interconnections between WPs

The differentiated role of cities was clarified:

- Partner cities (Linköping and Erlangen): full partners with budget and WP responsibilities.
- Associated partner cities (10): no budget allocation but shared responsibility in national dissemination, participation and testing.

Governance mechanisms were introduced:

- Regular coordination meetings;
- Shared digital tools (website, corporate email, joint Zoom account);
- Clear communication flows and shared responsibilities.

2.2 Learning from the SCORE project

Lessons from the previous CERV-funded SCORE project were presented, emphasising:

- The importance of evidence-based design;
- The role of local authorities in coordinating stakeholders;
- The need to move beyond awareness-raising events towards structured pilot implementation.

SPIRIT incorporates this lesson by embedding participatory diagnosis, Local Hubs and concrete pilot actions within a coherent policy cycle.

2.3 Conceptual framework

The three core pillars of SPIRIT were presented and discussed:

- Equality (rights, access and non-discrimination in sport);
- Respect for diversity (recognition of plural practices and realities);
- Positive interaction (intentional design of meaningful encounters).

Participants reflected on structural barriers, interdepartmental coordination and governance responsibilities.

2.4. Communication and Visual Identity

A dedicated moment was included to present the project's communication framework and shared tools. The SPIRIT website was introduced, including its structure and multilingual options, and partners were invited to contribute content throughout the project.

A shared corporate email account and a common Zoom account were presented as coordination tools to facilitate consistent communication across countries.

Three logo and claim proposals were discussed collectively, and partners agreed on the final visual identity. The selected logo and tagline reflect the intercultural and European dimension of the project and were subsequently shared in different formats for consistent use in dissemination activities.

Day 2

2.5 Local priorities & expectations – “SPIRIT Tree” exercise

A structured participatory exercise (“SPIRIT Tree”) was conducted to identify:

- Local priorities (roots);
- Expectations towards SPIRIT (trunk);
- Risks and challenges (branches).

Common challenges identified included:

- Sustainability beyond project cycles;
- Limited human and financial resources;
- Interdepartmental fragmentation;
- Trust deficits in institutions;
- Lack of data on participation gaps.

Expectations focused on:

- Improved coordination;
- Capacity building;
- Concrete tools and good practices;
- Stronger multi-sectoral diagnosis.

This exercise served as a baseline reference point, informing the implementation of WP2 (Diagnosis) and WP3–7 (Local Hubs).

2.6 Planning of Local Hubs (WP3–7)

Participants worked in country groups using a structured grid to define:

- Purpose and scope of Local Hubs;
- Potential composition (municipal departments, CSOs, sport entities);
- Governance and facilitation models;
- Links to Local Action Plans and pilot actions.

It was agreed that Hubs must operate as co-creation and implementation spaces, not merely consultative forums.

2.7 National Training Programmes (WP8–12)

Although time was limited, key parameters were defined:

- Training will be based on diagnosis results;
- Target groups: city staff, CSOs, sport organisations, schools and Hub members;
- Objective: create shared language and practical tools bridging analysis and action;
- Flexibility will guide national adaptation.

AGREEMENTS & NEXT STEPS

- The minutes of the meeting and all presentations used during the workshop have been shared with partners.
- The project website is fully operational, including the final agreed logo and visual identity as well as materials.
- Communication templates and a short communication guideline will be developed to ensure consistent use of visual identity and EU visibility requirements across partners.
- The systematisation of the practices presented in Bilbao into a structured “Good Practices” dissemination format is currently underway and will be shared with partners once finalised.

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