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Municipality Days & Town Twinning Žirany 2026

Results and statistics of the international event · 10–12 July 2026

Project “Empowering Tomorrow” (101215712), CERV-2024-CITIZENS-TOWN-TT

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What is the CERV Programme?

Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values - the EU's main funding programme for citizens and civil society

CERV supports and develops open, rights-based, democratic and inclusive societies. It brings European values closer to citizens and gives local communities the means to work together across borders. The programme is managed by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

1

Union values

Protecting and promoting the rights and values on which the EU is founded

2

Equality & rights

Gender equality, non-discrimination and the rights of the child

3

Citizens' engagement

Town twinning, networks of towns and remembrance

4

Daphne

Preventing and combating all forms of gender-based violence

Our project within CERV

Town Twinning strand · CERV-2024-CITIZENS-TOWN-TT

Project

Empowering Tomorrow: Civic Engagement,
Sustainability and Equality for a Stronger Europe

Project number

101215712

Coordinator

Municipality of Žirany, Slovakia

Partner municipalities

Dorog (HU) · Zábřeh (CZ) · Feliceni (RO)

Objectives

- Civic participation and active citizenship
- Sustainability and the environment
- Equality, inclusion, non-discrimination
- Cross-border cooperation and friendship
- Revival of local cultural traditions

How the project is funded

Lump sum grant under the CERV Town Twinning call

Grant amount

€33,830

Co-funded by the European Union

Form of grant

Lump sum for the completion of one work package - the Town Twinning event

Basis of the lump sum

Number of direct and international participants declared in the application

Project duration

10 months, ending with the final report to EACEA



The event at a glance

Obecné dni & Town Twinning Žirany 2026

3

days of programme

4

countries represented

343

direct participants

1

public event, in situ

Fri 10 July

Opening of a new multifunctional playground · photo exhibition · round table “Shaping a Sustainable Future in the EU Together” · working dinner · evening concert

Sat 11 July

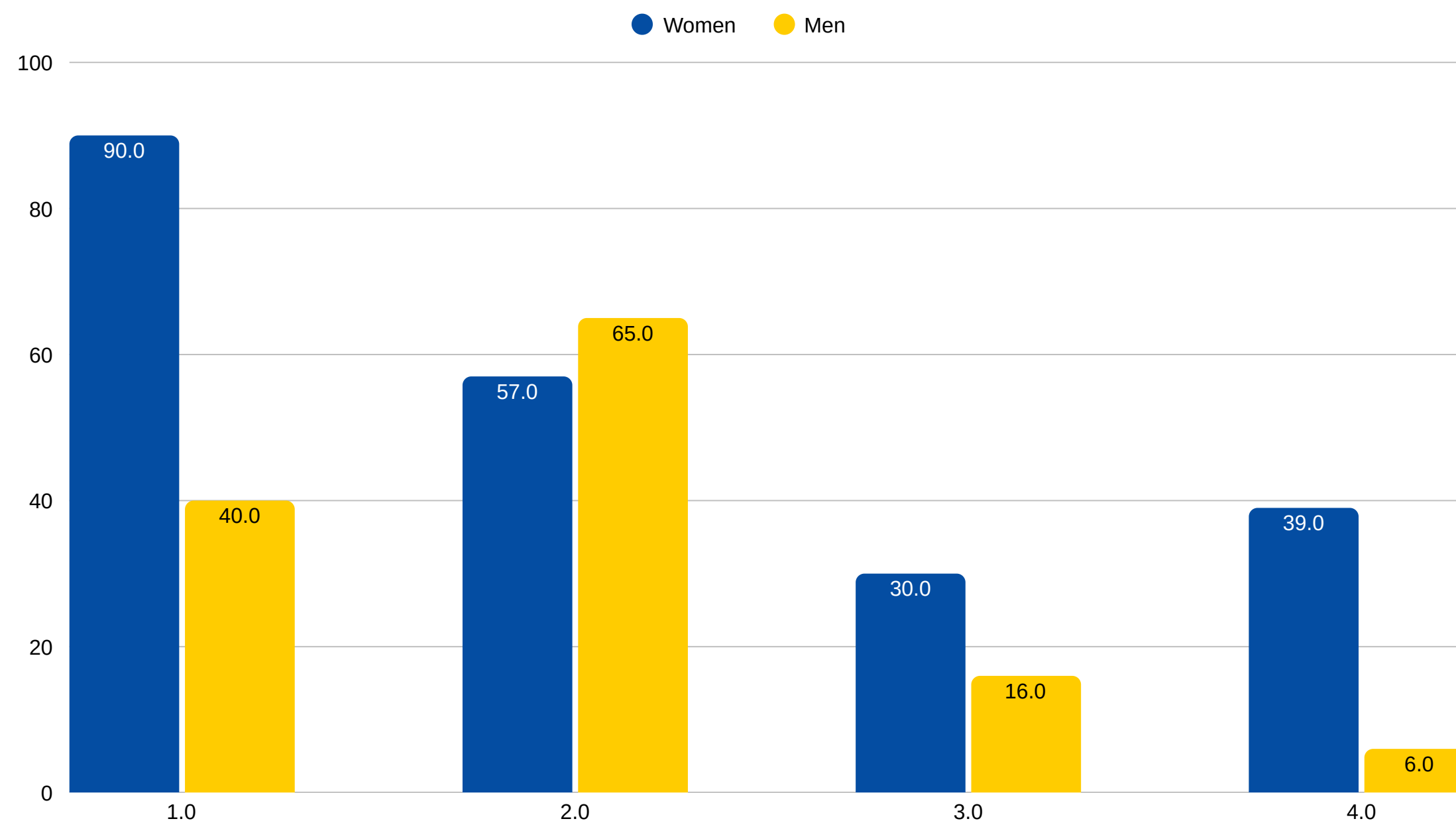
Excursion for delegations (quarry, folk house) · cooking competition “Gastronomic Journey through Europe” · wine tasting · children's programme · evening concerts

Sun 12 July

Holy mass · joint choir concert · wreath-laying at the Memorial of Hope · municipal awards · brass orchestra and folklore ensembles · craft demonstrations

Participants per municipality

Unique persons across the whole event · source: signed attendance sheets



Total per municipality

Žirany (SK) **130**

Dorog (HU) **122**

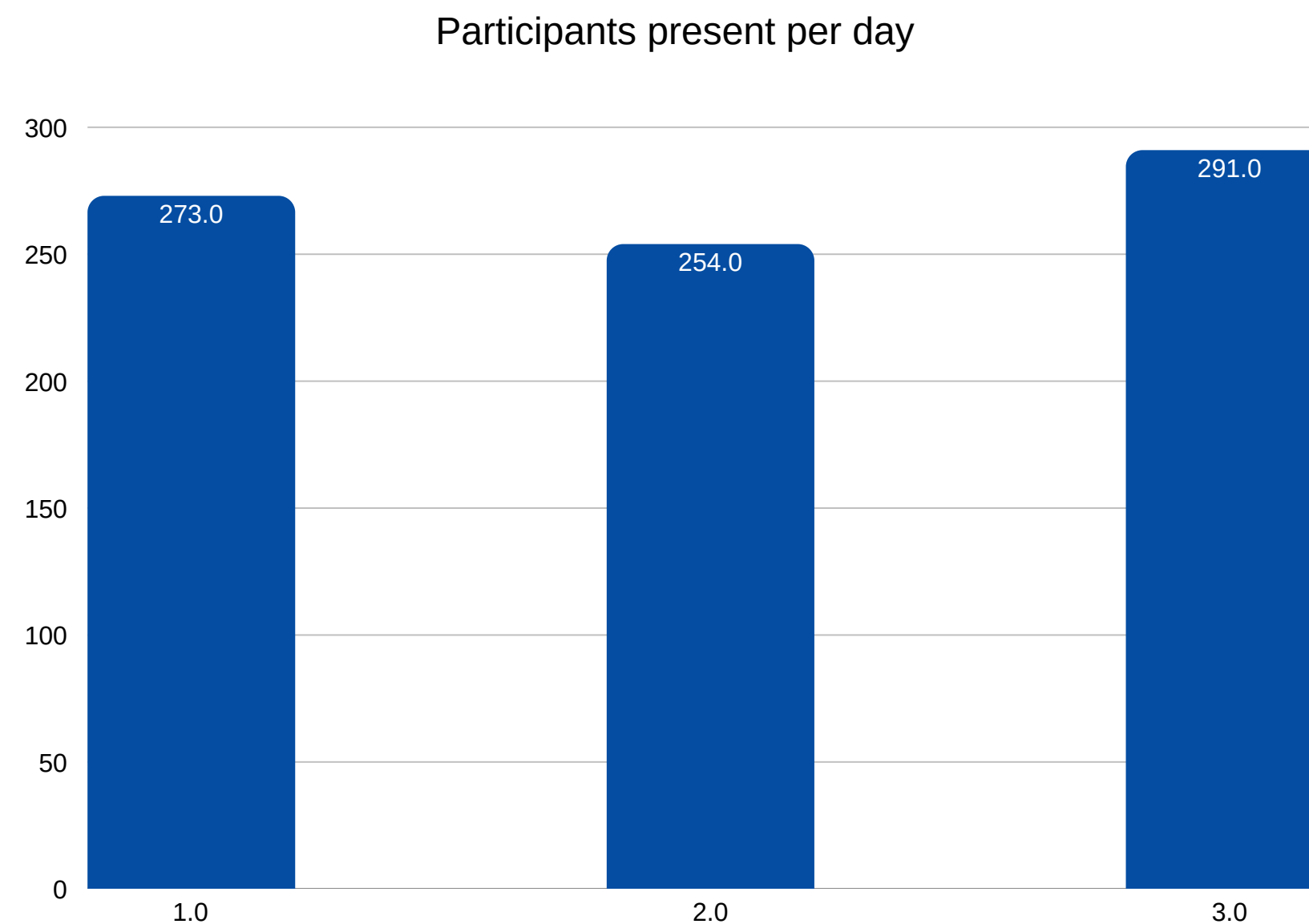
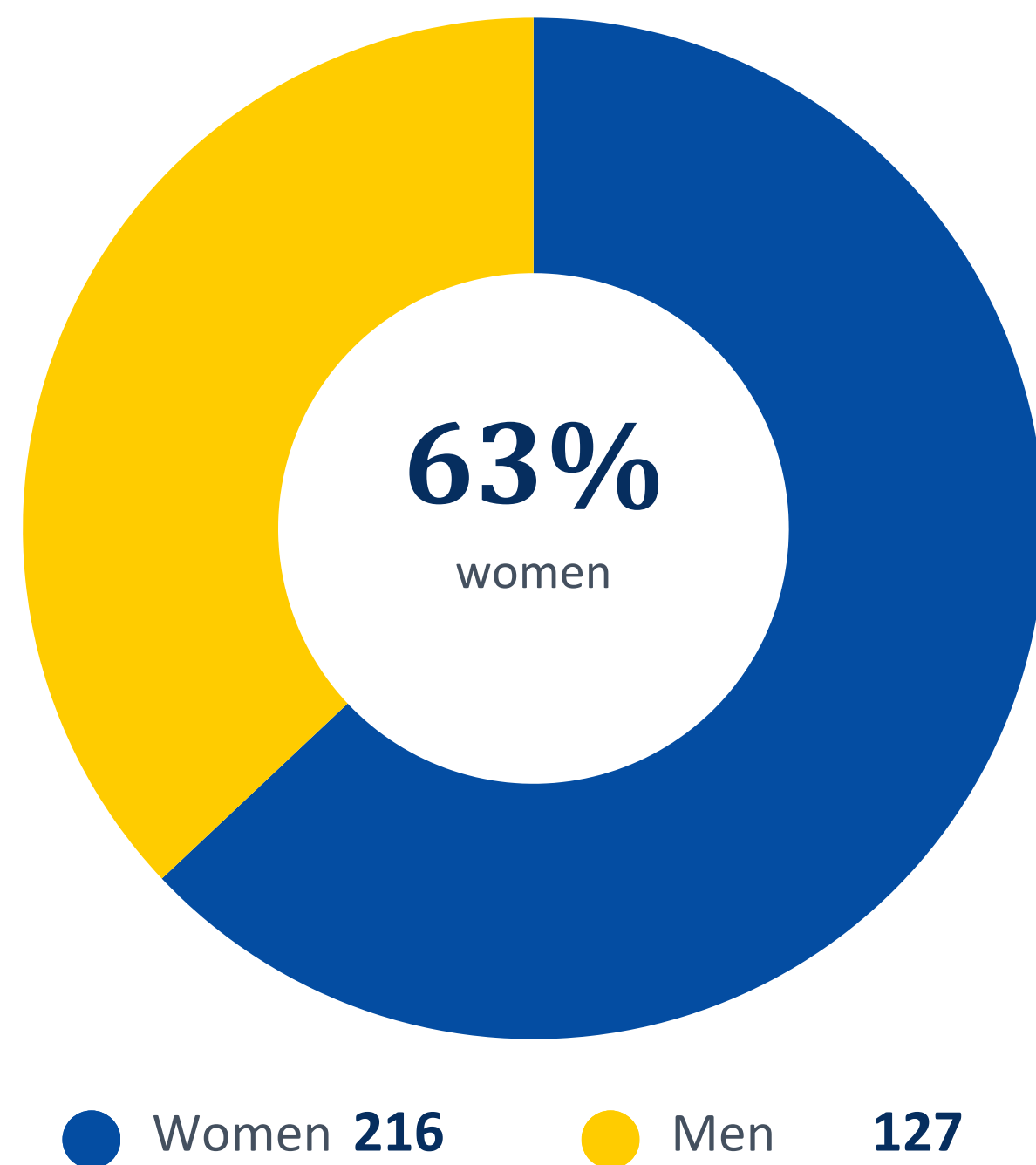
Felicieni (RO) **46**

Zábřeh (CZ) **45**

Total 343

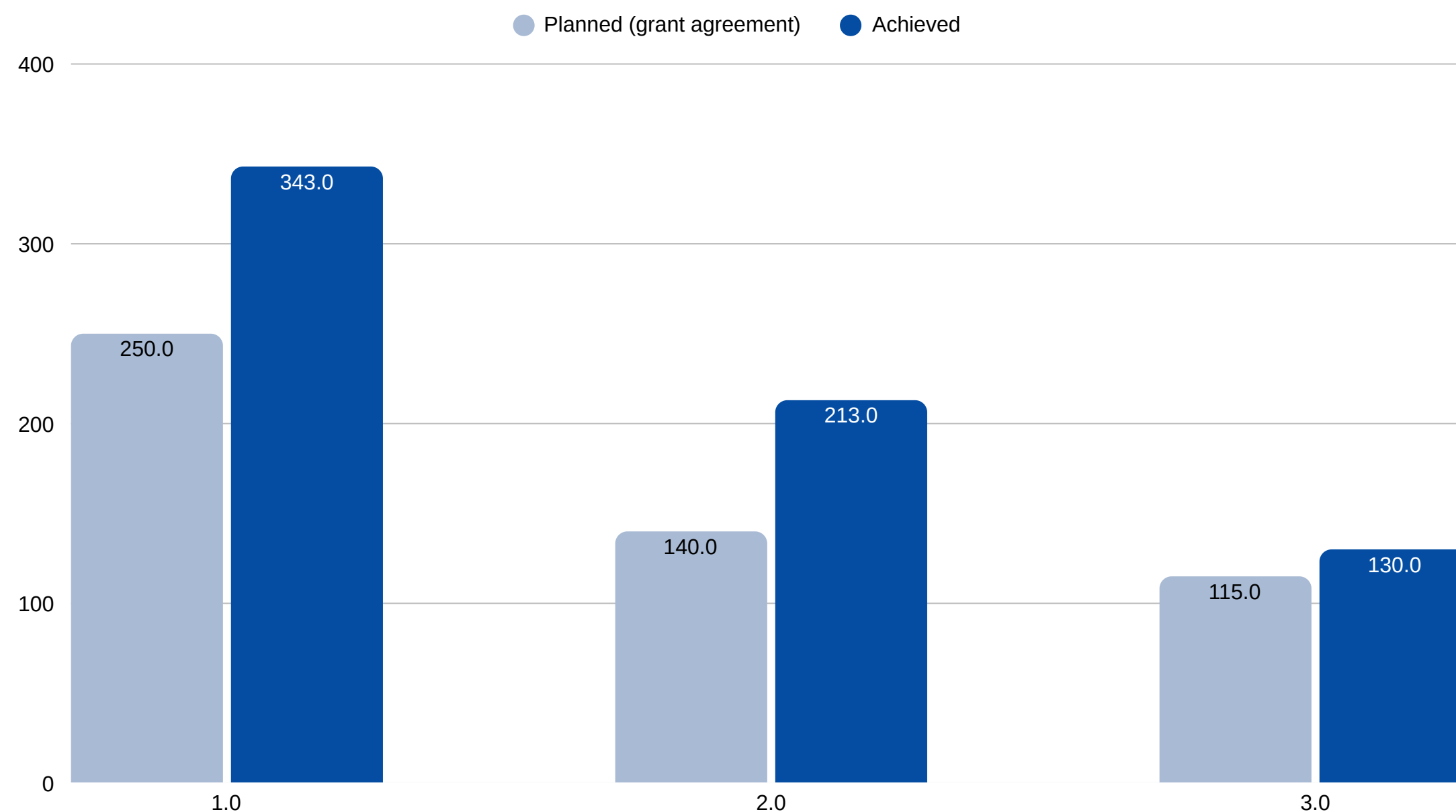
Gender balance and daily attendance

CERV requires a minimum of 50% women among participants



Planned targets vs. actual results

All participation indicators of the grant agreement were exceeded · planned figures from Annex 1 and Annex 2



+37%

more direct participants than
planned

+52%

more international participants

4 / 4

delegations at full strength

Results and impact

What remains after the three days

An active partnership network

The first Town Twinning event in the municipality's history produced personal, working contacts in three EU countries and a shared intention to continue with joint initiatives.

Good practice exchanged at four-country level

The round table brought together mayors, regional and national representatives around sustainability, civic engagement and equality in small municipalities.

Citizens reached who had never taken part before

Residents with no previous experience of an international event met their European neighbours in person; marginalised groups, including members of the Roma community, took part in the programme.

A lasting community facility

A new multifunctional playground was handed over to the village at the opening of the event.

Local heritage revived and shared

A photo exhibition on the history of the village, craft demonstrations and folklore ensembles presented local traditions to an international audience.

A mobilised community

Local associations and volunteers contributed many hours of work — civic engagement in practice, not only as a project objective.

What participants told us

Anonymous satisfaction survey in Slovak and Hungarian · 27 respondents from all four municipalities

100%

very satisfied with the
content of the event

100%

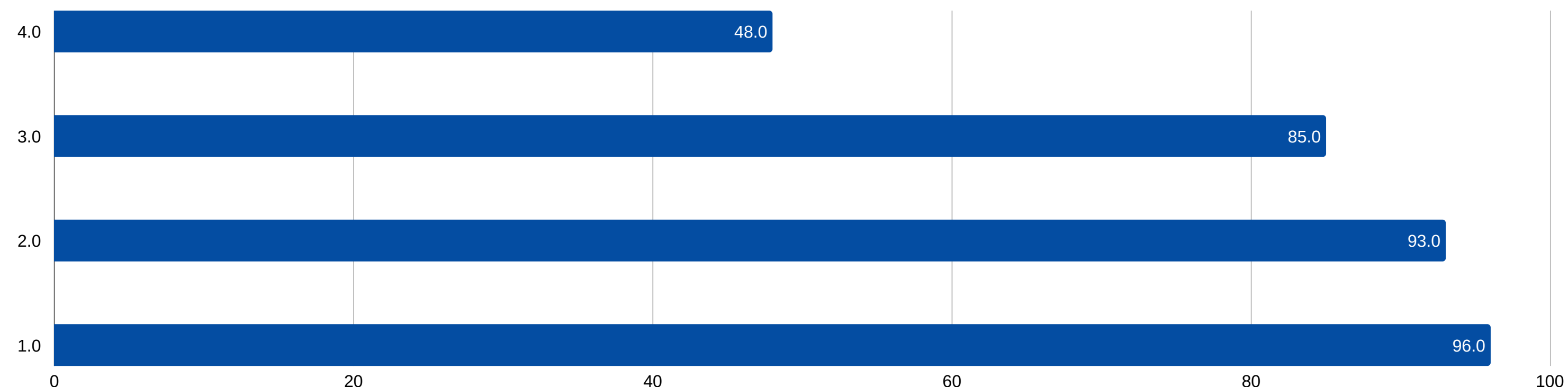
very satisfied with the
organisation

100%

would recommend the
event to others

100%

believe such events
strengthen cooperation



In their own words

Open answers to “What did you like most about the event?” · translated from Slovak and Hungarian

“

*Pleasant atmosphere, good mood,
excellent programme.*

Žirany (SK)

“

*Interesting workshops; friendly people;
great organisation; excellent specialities.*

Žirany (SK)

“

*Pleasant atmosphere; excellent food;
cultural programme; discussions with
the partners.*

Zábřeh (CZ)

“

*Everything was very well organised; the
mood was very good; they thought of
everything.*

Dorog (HU)

“

A family atmosphere.

Felicieni (RO)

“

*Inspiring talks; exchange of experience;
folklore performances.*

Žirany (SK)

Asked what could be improved, most respondents answered “nothing” or “keep going in the same spirit”. The only recurring suggestions were more seating (three municipalities) and a longer programme (Felicieni).

Topics addressed

The five CERV themes of the project and where each was taken up in the programme

Civic participation and democracy

Round table with mayors and regional and national representatives; the “Voices of Tomorrow” session on disinformation, polarisation and the rule of law

Sustainability and the environment

“Green Horizons” on the European Green Deal and the New European Bauhaus; sustainable food practices in the cooking competition

Inclusion and equality

“Pathways to Common Opportunities” on shared Slovak, Hungarian and Roma histories, the EU Roma framework and the Charter of Fundamental Rights

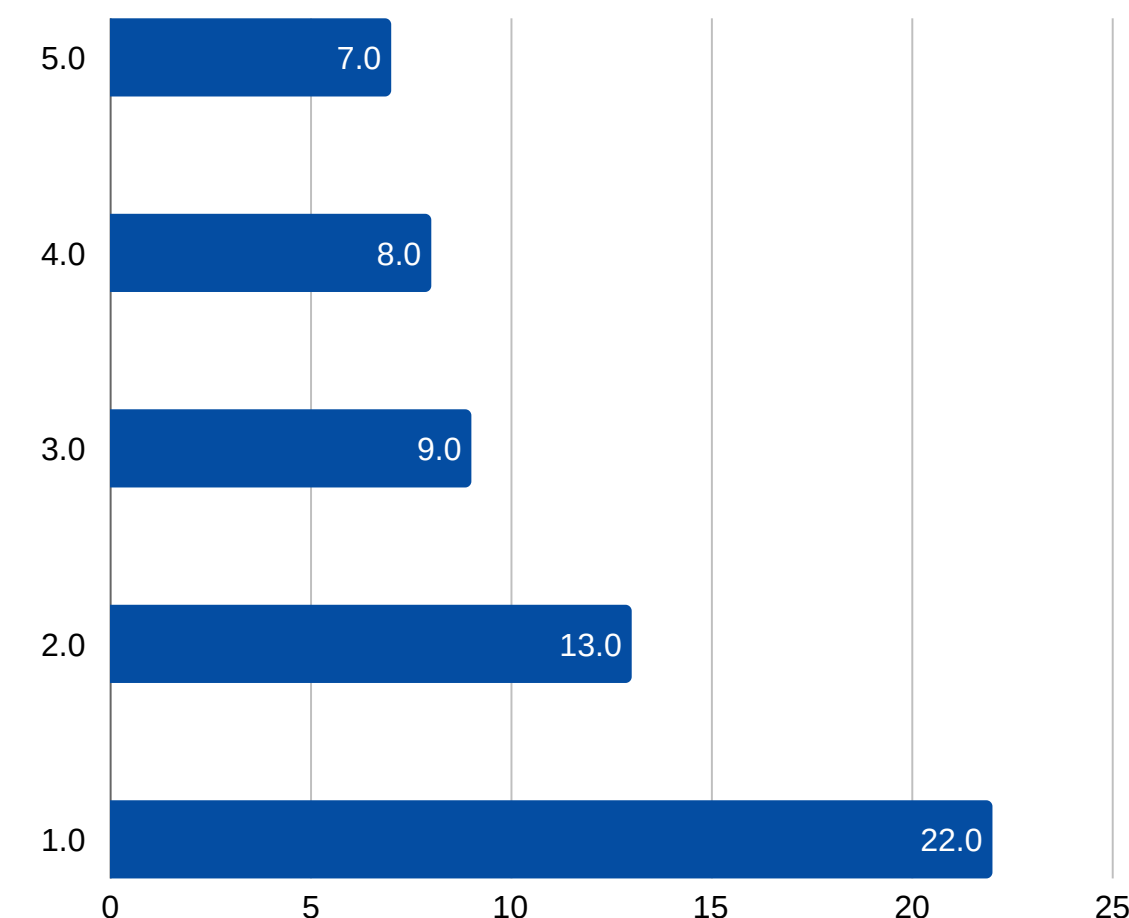
Cultural heritage and traditions

Photo exhibition on the history of the village; craft demonstrations; choirs, brass orchestra and folklore ensembles; visit to the folk house

International cooperation

Twinning of four municipalities; joint concerts and cooking teams; wreath-laying at the Memorial of Hope; new working contacts in three countries

Most interesting theme (n = 27)



Based on the results of the questionnaire based survey.

What we learned

Feedback translated into actions for the next edition

1

Make CERV visible, not just its logo

Fewer than half of respondents had heard of the programme before the event. Next time: a spoken explanation in all working languages, leaflets in language versions and banners that explain, not only display, the logo.

2

More seating for visitors

The most frequent practical suggestion, raised independently by respondents in three different municipalities.

3

Involve delegations across the full programme

Guided programme with interpreting and a structured get-to-know format at the start, so guests take part in every element, not only the main stage.

4

Give inclusion and equality a visible slot

All mentions of inclusion as the most interesting theme came from the partner municipalities — the topic deserves its own block in the programme.

Communication and visibility

EU support acknowledged across every channel

Project website

Dedicated project subpage on www.zirany.eu with the programme, partners and full EU disclaimer

Photo galleries

Separate gallery published for each day of the event (10, 11 and 12 July 2026)

Social media

Posts before and after the event on the Facebook pages of the host and partner municipalities

Partner websites

The event was announced by Dorog (HU) and Feliceni (RO) on their own municipal websites

Regional press

Article and advertisement in the regional newspaper Nitrianske noviny (issue 25/2026)

On-site and print

Programme poster, invitations, roll-up and banner with the EU emblem and funding statement



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Empowering Tomorrow:
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for a Stronger Europe



EMPOWERING TOMORROW
project 10121571

Granting authority: European Education
Executive Agency - EACE
Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values
ICERV-2014-CITIZENS



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EMPOWERING TOMORROW
project 101215712

Granting authority: European Education and Culture
Executive Agency - EACEA





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A stronger Europe starts in the village square

343 citizens of four EU countries met in person over three days. For Žirany — the first Town Twinning event in the municipality's history — the result is an active partnership network in three countries and a community that experienced European cooperation directly rather than reading about it.

343

participants

4

countries

63%

women

100%

would recommend