

# Enhancing Cultural Heritage: Local Cultural Festivals as Spaces of Inclusion

*Wednesday, 6 March 2024 12:00 (15 minutes)*

This study aims to explore the ways in which local cultural festivals can be used to achieve social and cultural inclusion. For data collecting we conducted 20 semi-structured interviews with festivals organizers from Sibiu, Romania. Interviews took place between March 2023 and September 2023, were conducted in person, in Romanian, and were transcribed afterward.

The results show that factors like the financial resources, the areas of living and the lack of education contribute to an unequal access to cultural heritage. Regarding access for people with disabilities, opinions are divided on the presence or absence of ramps in venues hosting cultural events. An interesting result is related to the presence of women in the public space: while some of the festival organizers believe that women are under-represented and although things are moving in a right direction, it will take time before we have gender equity in this field, others consider that belonging to a certain gender is not a relevant criterion. Many festival organizers believe that unlike other ethnic minorities, such as the Saxons and the Hungarians, the Roma minority is under-represented in festivals and other cultural events organized in Sibiu, and they indicate various reasons for this situation.

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**Session Classification:** Cultural heritage, a testimony of the past and reference book for the future

**Track Classification:** General sessions: Cultural heritage, a testimony of the past and reference book for the future