

Formentera's Office of Social Welfare unveiled today the programme of the sixteenth Festa Intercultural. The gathering was attended by Vanessa Parellada, Maribel Jiménez, and Marta Clavelo, the island's social welfare secretary, the organiser of the event, and the chairwoman of one organising body known as Associació Intercultural.

With a title meaning "Multicultural Party" in Catalan, the Festa will take place Sunday, April 8. This year organisers have opted to hold the event in es Pujols's plaça d'Europa, where some twenty countries and Spanish provinces will have representation. In the words of Councillor Parellada, "the idea is to experience, feel and thoroughly enjoy the cultures here that make us richer". Indeed, a handful of associated activities (regional dance classes and world storytelling, for example) have already provided islanders a taste of some of that cultural richness.

Ticket sales

With the Festa's move this year to plaça Europa, an open venue, admission to the event will remain open as well. Tickets, which can be purchased for four euros at two different vending stands, permit their holder to enjoy five sample dishes. Children under 12 will be offered a free ticket entitling them to three sample dishes.

Gastronomy

From 2.00pm to 3.30pm, attendees will be treated to an assortment of fine-dining flavours from the event's various stands. Among the signature world dishes expected to make appearances are asado, paella, couscous and nasi goreng.

Cuba, Chile, Italy, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Morocco, Argentina, Bolivia, Indonesia, Paraguay, Germany, Ecuador and Venezuela, plus Catalunya, Galicia, the Valencian country, Asturias, Castilla la Mancha, Andalusia and Formentera, are some of the twenty nations and peoples whose cuisines and cultures will be represented at the event.

Games for children

The Festa Intercultural begins at 12.30pm. Then, at 1.00pm, island youth will find a dizzying

array of kid-friendly activities like workshops, inflatable toys, traditional games and even a pint-size gymkhana. Boots on the ground for the event will be provided by youth workers from s'Espurna on Eivissa and support from Fundació Obra Social "La Caixa".

Musical performances

Many countries and regions will also stage musical performances at the event. There will be African dance, Formentera's own ball pagès, salsa, performer Ricardito (alias "el sabor de Cuba"), Venezuelan folk music, Galician gaiters, bachata, merengue, cumbia and a show-closing set by DJ Pharma.

Green practices and event security

Hoping once again to place special emphasis on being earth smart, the Festa's organisers are asking attendees this year's event to bring their own reusable plates and glasses (glass no, please—help avoid potentially dangerous accidents). Recycling bins and ashtrays will be arrayed around the grounds.

Organisers are also calling on islanders to participate by volunteering at this year's Festa. Interested parties can click here or visit the social welfare office (àrea de Benestar Social) for more information about volunteering at this and other events.