

Case study: Maria

Stay-at-home mother Maria migrated from Spain to the North of England where she joined Linguacuisine to feel less isolated and learn new skills. Maria shares her enthusiasm about Linguacuisine that she defines *'a spectacular experience'*. In Maria's words, being part of the project: *'has been a big experience for me because I was at home only look after my children and now I feel proud about what I can do'*.

Linguacuisine gave Maria the opportunity to make new friends, to learn more about other cultures, and to improve her English: *'since half of the group was British half of the group was foreigners [...] I have felt very confident speaking with everybody and secure'*.

When she joined Linguacuisine, Maria was not confident about her computer skills and found beneficial attending practical sessions as well as ones that were more theoretical: *'We have received a lot of information. So I'm feel very proud of [having] attended'*.

Linguacuisine helped Maria to develop new IT skills through group work and one-to-one support from qualified teachers: *'I feel more confident with my computer teacher Kate [...]. Working with the computer was another great thing. Initially I was worried to use the app because it was the first time working with a computer to build a recipe but soon I realised that it's easy to use the app and the staff is always there to help us'*.

Describing herself as *'a quite exigent person'*, Maria praises commitment and team spirit showed by others in the project *'It's noticeable how all of you are working really hard to build a fantastic app. I could made my recipe easily. I mean, everything we did was perfect'*.

She also values how staff members and teachers were supportive and able to offer advice and feedback: *'when I needed someone to help me I got the help I needed'*.

Linguacuisine has now come to an end and Maria will treasure the memories of the people she met: *'and finally we got our certificate and plenty of photos to remember all our life, these wonderful times that we have experienced with people from different countries, cultures and backgrounds'*.

She comments: *'It's sad for us [participants] but it is quite exciting as well as it means that the new app is almost finished. Maria looks forward to people all over the world to use the new Linguacuisine app: 'I am completely sure that people will enjoy learning languages, creating multinational recipes or simply using the app. It has been a wonderful project, I have enjoyed every single session.'*