

The project « Europe is a safe harbor » was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.1 "Town-Twinning"

Participation: The project involved 970 citizens, notably 800 participants from the town of Dlhá nad Váhom (**Slovakia**), 40 participants from the town of Kopacevo (**Croatia**), 40 participants from the town of Subotica (**Serbia**), 45 participants from the town of Békecsaba (**Hungary**) and 45 participants from the town of Kyjov (**Czech Republic**).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Dlhá nad Váhom (**Slovakia**), from 06/09/2019 to 08/09/2019

Short description:

The day of 06/09/2019 was dedicated to getting to know the European Union in a non-traditional way. The first day was called Europe Day. A collage of Europe with photos and pictures of partner countries was also created. The initial activity was targeted to let the getting to know of participants begin. This was followed by the introduction of partners and their activities as non-profit organisations. Individual partners presented their history of activities, areas where they operate. All the 5 partners – 5 non-profit organisations – presented themselves. Projects supported by the EU focusing on civil spheres were also presented. These partners showed to the public that the EU supports different types of projects, not just the building of the infrastructure. This was the presentation of good practice and positive benefits. Younger participants were also involved in the activities. They heard about the EU's opportunities to study abroad in order to explore new countries. Young people will become a promise to the future of Europe. In the afternoon, activities were devoted to the EU. In the first place, its history was presented. This was a milestone in the development of European awareness. The activity devoted to the making of a clip about the EU also had interesting results. By it, we got information about the knowledge that citizens have about the EU. Culture and gastronomy were also presented to help bring people together into one European family and overcome the primary barriers between nations.

The day of 07/09/2019 was dedicated to exploring the diversity of individual nations and people. The second day was called Day of otherness. Essential was to highlight the importance of tolerance and to focus on integration. Children and young people focused on the EU. In this way they indirectly became a part of the search for solutions that will make them active European citizens in the future. Children and young people talked about the EU and got to know it through a fairy tale. The getting to know between nations and citizens continued. It included a fast language course and creative workshops. In addition, an activity aimed at exploring local traditions associated with the return to the home village was added to the programme. The project also drew attention to the topic of migration. As a time phenomenon, the theme was presented in a documentary film that was filmed on the migration route to the EU in the years 2015/2016. The film was followed by the debate. Within it, the participants talked about the coexistence of the majority and the minorities, including foreigners. The challenge was to get examples of good practice for overcoming national barriers. The culture of national minorities was presented as the last topic of the day. They talked about the culture of the minorities that the members maintain until these days. It also helped to overcome the barriers between majority and minorities.

The day of 08/09/2019 was dedicated to culture and volunteering, so it was called Day of culture and volunteering. In the morning, the priority was to support voluntary activities. In this context, citizens got to know the new EU initiative. They found ways to get involved and be beneficial to their community, for society. Specifically, the project focused on young volunteers and senior volunteers. This has mediated the incentives and performances of the volunteer work. The project also devoted to history, namely to the events that stood at the beginning of the democratic path of the nations present. This was a reminder of totality and events of the year 1989. It was meant to act as a memento for younger generations. In the afternoon, within the activities the citizens got familiar with the culture of the nations present. These were suggestions for culture and making friendships. The participants got familiar with culture, cultural traditions, music and dance of five countries. Culture is a universal language and within this project, it represented a link and a coup of barriers. By cultural involvement, citizens pointed to unity in diversity.