

The project « Europe Meets Its Citizens » 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 1180 citizens, notably 60 participants from the city of Kyjov (**Czech Republic**), 60 participants from the city of Kanjiza (**Serbia**), 60 participants from the city of Kopacevo (**Croatia**) and 1000 home participants from the city of Tomášikovo (**Slovakia**).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Tomášikovo (**Slovakia**), from 07/07/2017 to 09/07/2017

Short description:

The day of 07/07/2017 was dedicated to the presentation of partners and the European Union. The day had a specific name - European Day. Its name expressed the connection with European themes. The partners devoted themselves to presenting projects implemented from European sources, oriented onto the civil sphere, discussed with participants of Erasmus programs, got to know Europe through food and history. The activities of the event started in the morning. After the opening ceremony the individual partners introduced themselves: the- ALFA PUBLIC, Kyjovské Slovácko v pohybu, "Destinus" - Udruzenje za omladinu, Madarsko Kulturno Drustvo Arany Janos and the local municipality, Tomášikovo. The partners presented their activities as well as projects focusing on the civil sphere, moving thus to the next activity called EU-phoria. It highlighted the positive experiences with the EU. As part of the activity Youth in Europe young people talked about studying abroad and about experiences with other cultures and studies. The afternoon began with learning about the 60-year history of the EU. It was a presentation of the founding of the European Communities, important milestones, and it ended with contemporary happenings and verification of the acquired knowledge through a quiz. The theme of the European Day was also contributed by the tasting of the national meals of the present countries. The evening featured cultural and musical presentations. The participants thus had the opportunity to get to know each other better and to become aware of the cultural identity of the present nations.

The day of 08/07/2017 was dedicated to EU citizens. The day had a specific name – Day of Culture. That is, it was devoted to culture, connecting people and mutual acquaintance. The morning activities began with creative workshops where young people created different subjects related to the EU. As a result, young got closer to this organization. At the same time, young people also talked about the EU. Within the activity “We are learning languages” young people were involved in creating a common poster with a variety of phrases in the languages spoken by the partners. After creating the joint poster, children visited the local historical park where they performed various entertaining and competition activities related to the EU and its discovery. The afternoon was designed for culture. On the stage, children, adults and seniors presented themselves, showing both their traditional and modern forms of culture. Here again there was room for overcoming borders and barriers through culture. New international friendships were formed within the evening activities.

The day of 09/07/2017 was dedicated to current problems. The day had a specific name - Day of Solidarity with Migrants. I. e. the activities focused on familiarising with the theme of migration and understanding concepts such as solidarity, selfless help or escaping from home. The day began by introducing the new initiative of the European Commission targeting young people willing to help. Young people thus had the opportunity to meet and join hundreds of young people from across Europe. Volunteering as a lifestyle, the need to help others and the activities of non-profit organizations were also presented. Young people and also seniors were invited through the activities of the day to do voluntary deeds to help others. As part of the program they learned how to become volunteers, how they can help regardless of age. The block of activities ended with a discussion on the topic of migration. The afternoon again touched upon the theme of migration. This was an exhibition of photos and pictures on migration. The exhibition brought a sense of the need to help and mainly understand people in need. Subsequently, culture came into the foreground in the form of presentation of the culture of national minorities – the Hungarian and the Roma. In this way, the organizers drew attention to the current theme of coexistence of the majority and minorities in terms of crossing of cultures and searching for common ways of good coexistence. The project ended with its evaluation. The project as a whole helped ordinary citizens get more connected to the EU and addressed current issues.