

**The project « Svet priatel'stva / Universe of Friendship / Universum der Freundschaft » 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 1000 participants from the city of Veľký Meder (**Slovakia**), 60 participants from the city of Kyjov (**Czech republic**), 60 participants from the city of Kanjiza (**Serbia**) a 60 participants from the city Miercurea Ciuc (**Romania**).

**Location/ Dates:** The event took place in Veľký Meder (**Slovakia**), from 12/09/2015 to 15/09/2015

**Short description:**

The Europe day of 12/09/2015 was dedicated to learning about the European Union in an unusual way. Firstly, it was the involvement of the youngest participants in learning about it. Implementation of European citizenship was also introduced to them. The project also involved artists who presented their views on EU citizenship. The event began at 10:00 a.m. with the ceremonial opening. Not only the event was opened, but also the vernissage of works of art on the theme of Citizen and Art took place, which was installed in the community centre. Artists from the regions of each partner exhibited their works. The theme of the exhibition was linked to current problems in Europe and the main topic of common citizenship. It was followed by the activity Children elect the EU. It was a creative workshop for children, in which they drew pictures on the EU. Then they threw the pictures drawn into the ballot box, which symbolized the act of election. The children thus learned how to elect properly (experience for the future, generating interest in the elections). The students were engaged in learning about the work of the European Parliament. In the form of a fictitious session they addressed current topics and thus participated in public affairs symbolically. The lecture presented the Union in an innovative and engaging way so that each participant gained not only positive impressions, but important information as well. The Video-blog was a new form of getting to know the Union, respectively what the citizens knew and thought about it. It was a video recording the views of citizens and participants on the EU. The aim of the video-blogs was to remove prejudices and problems of low participation in the EP elections.

The Day of NGOs 13/09/2015 was dedicated to to non-profit organizations. They were presented within the street of non-profit organizations. It was a presentation of the work of not only the project partners, who are also non-profit organizations, but also other non-profit organizations from the towns represented by the partners. NGOs of nationwide scope took part in the street of non-profit organizations as well. The participants here had the opportunity to get to know volunteering and were confronted with activities they can do for their community / for their loved ones, for free. The discussion of international forms of volunteering was also devoted to volunteering. In the afternoon there was a sitting of representatives of the project partners. In the frame of workshop they exchanged experience concerning the contents of their job, the use of European funds to support their activities and possible deeper cooperation in the future. The partners also outlined solutions to their common Networking project. Another activity was Senior in action. It was a market of activities for seniors. Seniors here had the opportunity to get tips and ideas for their leisure activities. The goal was to move them from the edge of society into its center again. For many, this was a completely new experience. The activity We Help Each Other was a discussion on mutual assistance. This was not just about telling sad stories with a happy ending, but also funny stories - of life, which the NGOs face. It was also an informal exchange of experiences. The theatre performance was presented by amateurs (voluntary actors). Its task was to evoke a friendly atmosphere, helping to bring together people of different nations.

The day of Culture and Friendship 14/09/2015 was dedicated to new impetus for cultural life and formation of friendships. The participants got to know the culture, traditions and crafts of four countries. They got to know people's opinions on the EU. They could play sports and do something for a good cause. The first activity of the day was devoted to sports exactly. Within the Mile for Health the candidates could run around the town of Velky Meder on marked trails. The competition was held in several categories - children, youth, men and women. The point of the running race was not the need to win, but need to help. Its part was in fact raising funds for cancer patients. The run was followed by a variety of social activities. It was playing parlour games, shared discussions and animation programs. Their task was to unite participants. The traditional fair and handicraft market provided space for exploring the traditions of our ancestors. Home participants and guests could observe the production of traditional products. Products could also be purchased, thus promoting the craftsmen and their work. This activity managed to preserve traditions. The afternoon began with screening video-blogs. It was interesting to see the reactions of the audience on funny and sometimes interesting reactions of participants to the issues relating to the EU. Later, culture got into focus. Home participants and guests prepared cultural performances (singing, dancing, playing musical instruments), presenting themselves to the general public. At the same time it was a presentation of traditional regional culture. The cultural performances as well as dance entertainment served to confirm friendships.

The Greetings day of 15/09/2015 was dedicated to the evaluation of the project. During the previous three days the participants gained new knowledge and ideas for the creation of project outputs. The basic objective of the

project - unite citizens and strengthen the partnership of municipalities had been fulfilled. Before midday a formal evaluation of the event was held. It was handing over souvenirs and memorabilia, pointing out the importance of the event and highlighting the non-profit sector. The present citizens said goodbye to each other and at midday, they left for their homes.