

The project « Europe is our home » 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 projekt enabled the meetings with the participation of 781 citizens from Miejsko-Gminny Dom Kultury /Poland/ 60 person, Regionalni rozvojova agentura jizni Moravy /Czech Republic/ 41 person, Municipality of Bakonyszombathely /Hungary/ 80 person, Asociata Mikroregionala Pogany-Havas /Romania/ 60 person and from Slovakia Občianske združenie OÁZA Komoča 540 person.

Venues/Dates: the venue of the meeting was Komoča (Slovakia), between 02/08/2019 and 04/08/2019

Detailed description:

On 2 August 2019, in the framework of the project 'Europe is our home' the topic was as follows. On the first day, after the arrival of the guests, the guests were welcomed and accommodated. The guests were welcomed by the president of the OÁZA Civic Association and the mayor of the village. At 10 o'clock, Imre Lukács, the mayor of Komoca, welcomed the guests and officially opened the three-day event. The representatives of the invited foreign partner settlements and the municipal representatives of the neighbouring settlements came really well-prepared to the first program block. First of all, the partner countries introduced themselves, which was not only in the form of lectures and presentations, but also with demonstration of visual objects.

Each partner settlement had brought the brochures, roll ups, booklets by the help of which they presented the tourist attractions of their region and settlement. Along with material and visual demonstrations (such as a vase with local folk motifs, folk costumes, hand-made soaps, etc.), local flavours appeared in the form of food, drink and spices. Following the introductions, another program block took place promoting the idea of solidarity. Three lecturers gave presentations on the day-to-day activities and programs of voluntary organizations and NGOs.

From the region, the mayor of the village of Zalaba talked about the life of the small community, where they organize local and regional events with exemplary civil cooperation, care for the older generation in the village and do their best to prevent young people from leaving their homes. Another example of civil cooperation was the organization of the Children's Day in Komoča, which increased the number of population of the settlement from 900 to 2,500 on June 1, 2019 with programs for children from the region. The Barefoot Park was created in the settlement only through civil initiative and cohesiveness, which is not only a place of rest but has the healing power for the body and soul. The "Europe is our Home" program block, starting at 5:30 p.m., was launched by MA7, a national media group who committed to bring Europe closer to populations in the region and other EU countries, engaging micro-regional, regional and national topics such as:- survival at municipal and civil society level in Europe and in our own homes;-Every citizen has the right to clean drinking water - which is a very burning and topical issue here in Slovakia, in this region, as the supply of drinking water is running low, in addition, professionals also draw attention to excessive pollution.

- "Europe from the perspective of the region", presented by Balázs Tárnok, a lawyer, on the subject of Euroscepticism, while - during the lecture "Benefits of membership in the European Union" participants were able to express their opinions on the benefits and less positive facts of EU membership - a long topic discussion emerged on the current migration situation. The rather tiring, yet very valuable and meaningful day was closed by a dance house led by Kovász Banda from Budapest, whose dance instructors also came from Budapest.

On 3rd August 2019, the small farmers' market started in the morning, which is considered as a first attempt on the part of the organizers. Farmers and handicraftsmen came from the region to show a wider range of local values, products and their own creations. Also in the morning, the Cooking Competition called Taste of the Regions was launched with the participation of municipal and non-governmental organizations from 25 regions, in addition to representatives of foreign municipalities. The essence of the competition was to present their own settlements with the participation of the participating teams and their tents in the local folk art values, particular creativity and the different flavoured and spiced food specialties. The Tastes of the Regions table was also a first attempt, where the settlements were able to present their most typical food accompanied with a nice serving. This initiative was followed by a joint tasting. The Game Island program block appealed mainly to children and the young, but of course more adults could also join the team building games. In parallel with that, there was a pancake show where children could make pancakes themselves under the supervision of an adult and could also make fruit creams. On Saturday, Europe Direct helped bring guests closer to the European Union's ambitions and programs. Through interactive sessions, quizzes and playful quizzes, they learned more about the EU, the symbols of the EU. Migration was also a topic on which they could share their views. The discussion was coordinated by a knowledgeable expert who tried to argue reasonably on the most critical comments. The benefits of pro and con European Union membership quiz was very positive, as many have commented. The most interesting comments were included in the publication. For the rest of the afternoon, the cooking competition was evaluated and another cultural program block took place. Within its framework, presentations from partners and settlements in the region, mostly based on folk traditions, were presented in the spirit of folklore. Of course, the event also provided space for modern processing productions and stage performances. For the remainder of the evening, there were light music programs that served to deepen friendships and get to know each other easily.

On 4th August 2019 evaluation of the event, feedback, and opinion sharing took place for the partners. It was agreed that in the future they would attend each other's bigger events and try their best to make these meetings successful. After lunch, those who travelled longer distance home departed, while those who were closer still stayed in the settlement and spent the early afternoon with the locals. Subsequently, in the late afternoon, almost everyone said goodbye to the event and the members of the host organization and local government.

