

The project «Initiative citizens of Europe – twinning of volunteering, social thinking and common planning » 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 416 citizens, notably 200 participants from the city of Lúč na Ostrove (Slovakia), 34 participants from the city of Žitkovci (Slovenia), 20 participants from the city of Markotabödöge (Hungary), 60 participants from the city of Kóny (Hungary), 29 participants from the city of Frumoasa (Romania), 17 participants from the city of Becej (Serbia), 16 participants from the city of Dunajská Streda - Zdruzenie na pomoc ludom s mentalnym postihnutim (Slovakia), 40 participants from the city of Bilje (Croatia).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Lúč na Ostrove, Slovakia, from 14/06/2019 to 16/06/2019.

Short description:

Friday, June 14th

After the arrival and a short briefing, the town mayor, Mgr. Ladislav Kiss, ceremonially opened the event. Then the partners introduced their own settlement and region shortly, making it easier to get to know each other. Then we then focused on volunteering through activity presentations. Our partners had prepared themselves yet at home for the next activity, the focus of which was the democratic systems - so we could compare the election systems in each of the countries represented, what advantages and disadvantages they had. This was followed by the issue of community responsibility, where participants were informed about the social economy. The mentally handicapped citizens of Dunajská Streda were introduced themselves with their own program. They had prepared with dancing and singing for this occasion. Their creations could also be viewed in the corridor of the local culture house. Several genres and performers entertained the participants of the meeting during the evening (folk group Pósfá, Anita Vajas, Dóra Hájos and others).

Saturday, June 15th

In the morning, the five-a-side football matches started, in which the guests took part as well such as the athletes of the area. Later we focused on the family as a very important basic unit of society. We discussed how its role had changed in the past decades, what was the picture of the mother and father in societies of certain countries, what were the expectations towards the parents and the by means the social care systems facilitated (or complicated) the task of the parents in the framework of an exchange of views.

The gastronomy program also begun, in which, in addition to foreign guests and locals, actors from a popular television series were involved as well. Their spirited comments and their open attitude created a great atmosphere. Culture played a major role from the afternoon until late at night. In addition to music and dance, humour was present and the children were awaited with a fairy tales-theater and handicraft by the organizers. We devoted a separate program to a number of EU topics, where we talked about the opportunities offered by the citizens' initiative and the plans regarding to EU financing. A very interesting conversation took place with József Nagy EP delegate. He was also speaking to the audience about how to reconcile working abroad with being the father of five children. Many people were interested in the works of people with intellectual disabilities that could be seen on Saturday as well. Numerous information material was used to make the citizens more familiar with the functioning and organization of the Union. These publications were available in a number of languages and many people took them away, due to their easily recognisable phrase. The atmosphere was great during the evening and there were many interesting performers on stage, among which, all ages found their favourite.

Sunday, June 16th

On the last day of the event, mostly partnership programs took place. A joint evaluation of the project took place, and then the heads of delegations discussed the joint further plans. After that came the mayor's closing speech and the handing over of the gifts as well as the farewell. On the way home, foreigners had a short sightseeing tour of Dunajská Streda to get to know the region better. They visited the city center and some of its architectural masterpieces and later visited Veľký Meder on their way. In the evening, each group returned to their homes in order.