

**The project « Friends for Europe » 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 680 citizens, notably 500 participants from the town of Likavka (Slovakia), 60 participants from the town of Popesti (Romania), 60 participants from the town of Slatinany (Czech Republic) and 60 participants from the town of Wilkowice (Poland).

**Location/ Dates:** The event took place in Likavka (**Slovakia**), from 21/08/2015 to 23/08/2015

**Short description:**

The day of 21/08/2015 was dedicated to getting to know the citizens of the other partner municipalities. The first activities thus were of familiarization character. The participants got to know each other, and also got familiar with the twin towns and the European Union. The day started with ceremonial opening. The program of the project and its milestones were introduced. At first seniors joined the project in the context of the activity Seniors' Picnic. It was not exactly a picnic, but a treat provided to seniors and presentation of active aging. The presentation was associated with musical accompaniment of a well-known singer, who is also already in her seniors' years. Besides singing she offered incentives for active aging to seniors. The activity European Discussion Forum went on in the spirit of discussions on the EU and the partnership. Since it was the first joint meeting of the partners, first of all each partner municipality presented themselves. Subsequently, the EU was presented. Each of the municipalities presented their experience with the European Union. It was a major contribution to bringing the EU closer to its citizens. The participants also addressed the issue of philanthropy. Domestic and foreign participants brought different second-hand clothes and the organizers subsequently offered them for charitable purposes. The organization, which received the clothes, is committed to work with homeless people. The participants thus highlighted the need to show solidarity with people in need. The early evening program was marked by amateur actors. Home theater amateurs performed a theater play on the theme of typical village life from the turn of the century in Slovakia. It was a comedy, which entertained the domestic and especially foreign participants. The evening offered musical performances of domestic and foreign musicians coming from the partner municipalities and the surrounding area. This part of the program presented the current culture of individual nations.

The day of 22/08/2015 was dedicated to learning about the traditions of four nations. The morning program began with a competition in cooking pot pies on a kettle upon live coal. It was a show of traditional Slovak cuisine, as pies are one of the traditional national dishes. Equally interesting culinary specialty was cooking traditional dishes prepared by our foreign partners in makeshift conditions - that is, virtually in the wild. The cooks presented methods of cooking national dishes willingly, shared their culinary knowledge and insights with the viewers. The result of these activities were very tasty meals. In parallel with gastronomy activities, sports activities and competitions were conducted, too. It was a tournament in 5-a-side football, which was also attended by representatives of the partner municipalities. The tournament was held in a system of dividing teams into two groups and subsequently there was a game for the third place and the final. Sports & competition were specifically designed for children, too. About 150 children came from the domestic and foreign participants to compete in different sport events. Children enjoyed themselves in overcoming artificial barriers, throwing hoops to stick, tug of war, jumping over skipping ropes, kicking penalties, hitting cans. They were also engaged in drawing competitions, could try the basics of carving and painting art under the supervision of local artists etc. After the contests, delicious snacks and of course nice prizes were prepared for all children. The activities Children's Picnic and Children and Senior World helped bring the young participants, as well as generations together. Another program was intended both for fruit producers and also discussions among seniors. They were looking for solutions to current issues and needs jointly. On Saturday the European Discussion Forum continued with a discussion between young people and adults about the European Union. It also highlighted the theme of volunteering in the frame of demonstrations of the work of the Volunteer Fire Department from Likavka. The evening belonged to culture again. Bands from Slovakia and abroad performed in the frame of concerts.

The day of 23/08/2015 was dedicated to affirming relations. The activities had an easy and relaxing nature. The day started with presenting traditional life within traditional Sunday markets. Outside, folk traditions associated with modern elements were presented, and folk traditions captured in the museum, too. The home municipality introduced itself in this way, too. In the morning a holy mass was held. It was attended by foreign guests, too. Some of the participants used the organizers' offer and completed an undemanding hike along the nature trail at the foot of the hill Čebrať, finished with the inspection of the Likava castle ruins. The afternoon belonged to summary of the project. The day and the event were finished with a symbolic handing over of gifts, saying goodbye to guests and expressing the wish to meet again together.