

The project « Partnership 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 780 citizens, notably 600 participants from the host town of Likavka (**Slovakia**), 60 participants from the town of Popești (**Romania**), 60 participants from the town of Wilkoviec (**Poland**) and 60 participants from the town of Stalitzany (**Czech Republic**)

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Likavka (**Slovakia**), from 26/08/2016 to 28/08/2016

Short description:

The day of 26/08/2016 was dedicated to getting to know citizens of the other partner municipalities, as well as addressing current European issues. The first activities had therefore a familiarization character. The participants got to know each other in the form of debates (seniors). The day started with the ceremonial opening. The program of the project and its milestones were introduced. In the beginning of the project seniors were involved. Within the activity Senior Picnic the seniors of the partner municipalities met. This was not explicitly a picnic, but senior entertainment and presentation of active aging. The activities of Exhibition of photographs of refugee camps and Europe at a crossroads - a lecture on the EU drew attention to current themes dominant in the EU today. The exhibition was devoted to the topic of migration as an element that divides the peoples of Europe. The lecture and the subsequent discussion were focusing on the issues of migration, Brexit, the need for greater coherence and solidarity among nations. The evening program was marked by amateurs. The home theatre amateurs presented a theatre play on the theme of bringing people together. It was a comedy, which entertained both domestic and foreign participants.

The day of 27/08/2016 was dedicated to the issue of solidarity and learning about traditions of four nations. The morning program began with a competition in cooking pot pies in kettle over live coal. It was a blend of traditional Slovak cuisine, as pies are one of the traditional national dishes. Equally interesting gastronomic experience was cooking traditional dishes of our foreign partners. The cooks gladly presented the methods of cooking their national dishes, together with the viewers they shared culinary knowledge and insights. The result of these activities were very tasty meals. In parallel with the gastronomic activities sports activities and competitions were also conducted. It was sports activities for children, youth and adults. As first, children and youth were engaged. Activities aimed at competition, sport and entertainment were prepared for them. Children and young people entertained here together and got to know new friends. For adults a mini-football tournament was prepared, which was also attended by representatives of the partner municipalities. Children and adults are also invited to discover the work of craftsmen within the so-called Folk's day. Within craft workshops they could try the basics of carving and painting art under the supervision of local artists. "What partners can do for Europe" was the theme of joint discussion between the representatives of the municipalities on the future of the partnership and involvement of citizens in public affairs. The activity called Solidarity, hope help was devoted to the topic of volunteering. It was presentation of volunteering discussion with volunteers and finding volunteers and also voluntary blood donation. Volunteers from the home municipality helped look for potential volunteers from among the participants, who will appeal to the idea of volunteering. Voluntary help to others in their community has become the motto of the activity. Within the program the movie "We too are at home here" was shown. It was a documentary film about the lives of immigrants and migration in Slovakia. The evening belonged to culture and cultural performances that helped bring together the nations present. During the entire day the Europe Direct information stall was open for visitors, which provided information about the EU in the form of promotional materials, as well as debates with the employees of the EuropeDirect center in Žilina.

The day of 28/08/2016 was dedicated to culture and affirming mutual relationships. The activities were of looser and relaxing nature. The day started with exploring the home village and its surroundings. Some of the participants took advantage of the offer by the organizers and completed an undemanding tour of the village and then a hike along the nature trail at the foot of the Čebrať hill which was ended by the inspection of the ruins of Likava castle. The afternoon belonged to youth and culture. The young participants together debated about the EU, about what they know about it, where the EU is beneficial for them. This debate brought an interesting comparison of knowledge of young people from different parts of Europe. The cultural part aimed at presenting modern culture that unites nations. During the presentations the participants had a good time. The day and the event were finished by the symbolic handing over of gifts, farewell to the guests and wishes to meet again together.