

The project « European Dream » 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 877 citizens, notably 700 participants from the city of Tomasov (**Slovakia**), 32 participants from the city of Berg (**Austria**), 45 participants from the city of Nova Lhota (**Czech Republic**), 50 participants from the city of Halaszi (**Hungary**) and 50 participants from the city of Moragy (**Hungary**).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Tomasov (**Slovakia**), from 01/07/2016 to 03/07/2016

Short description:

The day of 01/07/2016 was dedicated to connection between the partner municipalities and the European Union. The municipalities were connected within a „small Europe“ (the partnership), their citizens coming from four states and different age groups came to know each other and linked the present times in their communities with the future of the EU. These connections were articulated in the activities of the first day, especially in discussions. The project activities started on Friday noon. The guests from the partner municipalities had come to Tomášov in advance. The first point of the programme was opening of the event, followed by planting the friendship trees. That activity had become a tradition of the mutual meetings, thus leaving live memories on the partners in the form of planted trees. Later in the afternoon, the event was formally opened by the municipalities' representatives. The ceremonial opening was accompanied by introduction of the future partnership vision linked to European issues (migration crisis, Brexit etc.). Also, within the activity It's about Europe, other visions of the partners connected with community life and the future of the European Union were introduced. There was also prepared an exhibition of children's drawing in the local house of culture. The evening programme was focused on traditional as well as modern culture. Thus, the participants were invited to know each other better and learn about cultural identity of the participating nations.

The day of 02/07/2016 was dedicated to people – the agents of partnership, carriers of European Citizenship. In the morning, there was the EU Information stand providing printed promotion materials with information about the EU. The guests as well as home citizens could take and study the materials introducing the EU, its policies and functioning. At the same time, there was an exhibition of handicrafts prepared by citizens, especially the elderly. The exhibition provided a look at their skilful hands and minds. Sound competitiveness of nations was encouraged by so-called cauldron feast – teams composed of volunteers from all municipalities competed in preparing traditional halászlé soup (fish soup). Each team brought its own recipe with original ingredients. Local organisation also introduced their activities. The programme was focused on children, too, there were games for everybody, supporting skills, logics and sense for arts. The games helped in connecting children from all corners of Europe. Evening was devoted to international culture again. On the podium there were children, adults and also the elderly who showed their own traditional as well as modern culture. There was also a space for overcoming barriers and borders with help of culture. Within the evening activities, new, international friendships were born.

The day of 03/07/2016 was dedicated to strengthening the mutual relations. The morning programme was started with Holy Masses in Slovak and Hungarian language. These spiritual activities helped the participants in finding peace. After the divine services, the guests met while laying wreaths at the memorial of the Common Past. After that, there was a festive lunch together with a common debate about the initiative for social Europe. The citizens gained information on fighting social exclusion based on age or adherence to marginalized communities in the EU countries. Then, the floor was given to sports, specifically to football match. Those not participating in the match could undergo a guided tour through the municipality. The day and the whole event were concluded by the theatrical performance called „Made in Feel“, prepared by the local voluntary theatre ensemble. The project as a whole helped in imagining the future of the partnership and the EU and encouraged creation of many international friendships.