

The project « Sunny Days with European Union » 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 970 citizens, notably 800 participants from the town of Tomášov (**Slovakia**), 30 participants from the town of Berg (**Austria**), 40 participants from the town of Nová Lhota (**Czech Republic**), 50 participants from the town of Halászi (**Hungary**), 50 participants from the town of Móragy (**Hungary**).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Tomášov (**Slovakia**), from 21/06/2019 to 23/06/2019

Short description:

The day of 21/06/2019 was dedicated to these themes: history of Europe and knowing the EU and the partner municipalities. A Route to Europe was the first activity. This activity was realized for the smallest – for pupils from the partner municipalities. Within this activity, several competitions and educational activities about the EU were realized. Hence, the smallest participants were connected in an entertaining way in knowing Europe. The activity Corner of the partner municipalities followed. Within this activity, information about the partner municipalities was presented. This activity symbolized a connection of municipalities and their citizens into a unity and became a symbol of the partnership also for the future. Moreover, the participants were shown how great and large the partnership is. The panel discussion with a historian followed, within which the EU history and the history of whole Europe was presented. More precisely, the activities were following: The Presentation of 60-year history of the EU and its contributions to the lives of citizens and Events of 1968 and their impact on Europe. During these activities, the EU history was presented. The participants gained information why the EU was established and what it has reached in the latest 60 years. The presentation of the EU contributions became a symbolic wall construction against the Euroscepticism and also a milestone for planting the seed of the European awareness. The participants recognized the EU contributions, the way the EU helped to improve the partner municipalities as well as what the European citizenship is. Furthermore, events of so called Prague Spring, when the democratic movements in Czechoslovakia were violently suppressed, were commemorated. This is a negative experience of people who lived at that time and it is a memento for the young generation that it is important to appreciate democracy and freedom we have nowadays in the EU. The evening programme was dedicated to culture and cultural performances.

The day of 22/06/2019 was dedicated to these themes: voluntariness, gastronomy, help to seniors and culture. Firstly, knowing the EU by the information materials, leaflets, brochures etc., continued. Hence, everyone could take a piece of Europe with himself home. Some participants from the partner municipalities, mainly the older generations, went for a trip to Bratislava, where they were sightseeing and knew the country. The rest of the participants focused on the theme of voluntariness. Within the activities, The Market of voluntariness and Help to migrants, voluntary organizations operating in the municipalities, as well as the international associations that help migrants were presented. Thus, the theme of voluntariness reached the participants. Citizens gained information about the possibilities how they could help on the local level as well as during the global crisis (e.g. the migration crisis). By the debate about solidarity and voluntariness on the local level, the perception of possible engagement of citizens was supported. Moreover, the participants were reminded of the important theme, which still badly influences Europe. Since afternoon, gastronomic shows and a completion in cooking took place. Due to this, citizens were connected informally and recognized traditional meals of the presented nations, as well as traditional recipes for fish soups from various parts of Europe. The afternoon was dedicated to competitions and games prepared for the younger generations. The negotiation with citizens was a first step towards their higher participation in the partnership. This activity helped with activating citizens and in increasing citizens' interest in the public issues. Also seniors participated in the project. Within the activity called The Senior Market of good deeds, their needs were enlisted into a list for seeking solutions. Moreover, they had an opportunity to discuss with one another. The evening cultural activities helped to break the barriers and connect citizens into one great European family. Moreover, the memory of the European year 2018 – The European year of cultural heritage – was supported.

The day of 23/06/2019 was dedicated to these themes: the youth in the EU and culture. The participation of the young people in democratic life and in knowing their importance within the EU future was highly important. Firstly, they found out why it is important to vote in the elections to the EU and what the EU provides – mobility, exchange programmes, programmes for mutual help etc. Secondly, they actively participated in saving the cultural heritage. Within the creative workshop, they gained new experience and knew the importance of culture. Except of these activities, holy masses and a ceremonial goodbye party with guests were organized.

