

The project « Shelter for Citizens, Imigrants and all the People of good will » 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 55 participants from the city of Předkláštří (**Czech Republic**), 35 participants from the city of Pilis (**Hungary**), 35 participants from the city of Gordes (**France**), 55 participants from the city of Wachock (**Poland**) and 600 citizens from the home town of Spišský Štiavnik (**Slovakia**).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Spišský Štiavnik (**Slovakia**), from 29/09/2017 to 01/10/2017

Short description:

The day of 29/09/2017 was dedicated to the European Union in the context of its multi-nationality and history. This means that the project highlighted the importance of the European Union in meeting citizens of five countries. The project started with a ceremonial opening. The project idea, the support from the EU as well as the individual partners were presented. The participants then moved together to the premises of the local elementary school, where the pupils prepared "The way around Europe". Within the classes the pupils have prepared boards where they presented the individual countries of the EU in terms of what they are known for. Later the project moved from young people to seniors. Seniors have become an important part of the project. As part of the Seniors' Meeting from the five corners of Europe, they exchanged experiences and solved the problems of the senior community. Later in the afternoon a lecture on the history of the EU took place. The EU presented itself to the participants as an organization that moved around Europe and advocated for the peace and prosperity of the last 60 years. The participants here had the opportunity to get to know the EU from different aspects and learn something new. The lecture was followed by a cultural part. An exhibition of works of art created by artists from citizens' municipalities on the topic Citizens in Europe was opened. Its role was to draw attention to the importance of every citizen for the EU. The organ concert and the social meeting were the elements of getting to know through cultural identity.

The day of 30/09/2017 was dedicated to the development of solidarity. Another learning about the EU was the subject of so-called The European House. Information brochures on the EU were distributed in the stand located in the center of the village. This contributed to the development of European awareness. Morning activities continued with creative workshops where young people created different objects. The community with the nations of Europe was the activity of unveiling a common whiteboard and commemorating the importance of a joint solution not only for partnership but also for themes that are going on across the EU. The Solidarity market was a demonstration of volunteering. Introducing nonprofit organizations which help marginalized communities, particularly Charity, has contributed to raising interest in helping others. The theme was for young people as well as older people. Thanks to it, citizens understood what it means to be solidary. A discussion with representatives of municipalities on the involvement of young people and seniors in community life was held. It was about finding solutions to keep young people/seniors active in their communities. Together they managed to find several interesting ideas as outputs. Representatives of partner municipalities also debated about Roma communities living on their territory. Together they created a plan to help Roma communities. They outlined the basic contours and they will complete them online during 2018. The evening was designated for social activities such as singing choirs, the Holy Mass and social evening. These have helped create new international friendships.

The day of 01/10/2017 was dedicated to the connection. The morning Holy Mass was a spiritual union among nations. An important activity of the day was the presentation of the EU's benefits to the lives of citizens. Successful municipal projects have been presented, as well as the EU's general achievements, such as the possibilities to travel freely across the EU (Schengen), finding help at a consulate of any EU country, especially when the home country has no embassy / consulate there, opportunities to study in EU countries, etc. This was followed by a ceremonial lunch. After lunch screening a film about minorities in Slovakia and Czech Republic. This was an important aspect in the fight against prejudice. This is how the project has been involved in current topics. Creating a common poster was done by children. The poster is a wonderful example of the creativity of children from different parts of Europe. The project ended with a summary and farewell in the five languages of the partnership. The project as a whole has helped ordinary citizens to connect more with each other and bring them together with the EU.