

The project « Kocky sú hodené - Alea iacta est » 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 1000 citizens, notably 800 participants from the town of Veľké Úľany (**Slovakia**), 50 participants from the city of Mikulov (**Czech republic**), 50 participants from the town of Vápenná, 50 participants from the city of Jánossomorja (**Hungary**) and 50 participants from the town of Csabrendek (**Hungary**).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Veľké Úľany (**Slovakia**), from 10/09/2015 to 12/09/2015.

Short description:

The day of 10/09/2015 was dedicated to creating new relationships among participants from five partner municipalities. Within the opening ceremony, the guests got to know the program, venues of the implementation of activities, manner of their accommodation and catering. The guests were welcomed by the mayor of the home municipality, František Gógh. In the opening speech he recalled the path that the partnership had done so far and highlighted the need for the implementation of the event. The next program was the Parliament of adults. The hosts and guests discussed European issues together, looking for solutions for Europe's future. The debate was held in the spirit of getting to know the functioning and positions of the EU. Current issues were presented, related to migration, lack of interest in the EU, the Ukrainian crisis etc. The joint debate led to the adoption and drafting of resolutions and especially proposals for the European Commission, which areas could be improved from the civic point of view. This way adults joined the process of finding solutions to Europe's future. The last activity of the day was Partners' familiarisation. The participants were discovering each other's mother tongue. Together they learnt basic words. It was a new form of familiarization between the partners from different countries. Thanks to this activity we managed to break down barriers between peoples and promote mutual tolerance.

The day of 11/09/2015 was dedicated to uniting through sport, traditions, culture and gastronomy. The morning activities were intended primarily for younger participants. Within children's games teams from the partner municipalities matched their strength and skills in various competitions - from tug of war to dodge ball. Children and youth had the opportunity to meet peers and make friends with them through healthy competition. Sport activities were done by elderly participants as well. A football tournament was organised for seniors. The most popular collective game became a stimulus for overcoming national as well as age barriers. The old men (men over 45) showed that sport is nothing strange at any age. The home team of Veľké Úľany won the tournament. The second was Csabrendek, the third Vápenná and the senior teams from Jánossomorja ended the fourth. Although it was a competition, among the participants there was good friendly atmosphere in the spirit of the slogan: it is not important to win but to participate. During the competition, lunch was being prepared in the form of goulash and also regional delicacies by skilful hands of housewives from each partner municipality. Exploring traditions in gastronomy was followed by learning about traditions in crafts. Folk craftsmen presented themselves in a workshop. They showed traditional folk products and the process of their production to the present. Children had the opportunity to manufacture of a variety of objects and try them out as well. The program also included the Children's Parliament. It was a fictitious meeting of the Children's Parliament. Children and youth from all partner communities tried out how the European Parliament works. At the same time they jointly discussed current societal issues that concern them. Just like adults, they also contributed their ideas to the resolutions for the European Commission Representation in Slovakia. Veľké Úľany municipality has several voluntary organizations that are working to improve life in the village. These presented their work, where their volunteering lies and how ordinary citizens can join them. Organizations of the partner municipalities also presented their voluntary activities. Participants thus got to know the true form of the word volunteering, they were confronted by their laziness to do something for others for free. The result was a debate and generating the interest of participants in voluntary activities. The exhibition of handicrafts was held in the spirit of demonstrating the skills of the population of the partner municipalities. Various decoration items and objects of daily use were presented. The exhibition paid tribute to the work of creators, particularly seniors. The cultural program which featured children, adults and seniors was marked by folklore, traditions and modern culture. Folklore and cultural identity of each partner municipalities was presented, which facilitated a deeper understanding of the partner municipalities. It was another step towards uniting and mutual knowledge. Culture has become the basis for new friendships.

The day of 11/09/2015 was dedicated to The Sunday program brought the confirmation of the new path of partnership. Within the morning program a horse race was held. This tradition of the home village was presented to the other partners. Interested citizens of the partner municipalities could also participate in the event. Several of them took advantage of this possibility. The equestrian events made the program more colourful and gave opportunities for mutual communication between the participants. The Parliament of seniors was an activity for collecting ideas ensuring the active life of seniors after their retirement. It focused on creating the model of the modern senior who is involved in the events in the village, follows the world events and is active. Seniors, in addition to the theme of active aging also addressed current issues circulating across the entire EU. In the frame of debate they expressed their views on the issue of migration. Seniors from the partner municipalities thus combined their needs with finding solutions to the current crisis. The outputs of both themes were incorporated into the

resolutions for the Representation of the European Commission in Slovakia. An important activity in terms of the future of the partnership and joint activities of the partner municipalities was the meeting of mayors with citizens. This was attended by representatives of self-governments, social organizations and citizens. They discussed topics of self-government issues, problems of citizens and the partnership, while searching for the right solutions using the experience of other municipalities. Citizens thus had the opportunity to participate in direct democracy. This resulted in suggestions for new topics to be addressed by the partnership in the future and in acquiring know-how. The Wall of Partnership became a symbolic confirmation of the partnership. The partners attached paintings symbolizing their town / city to one wall. In this way, they not only presented but also confirmed that they belong to a joint partnership. The Wall of Partnership is located in the municipal office building in Veľké Úľany. It is therefore a permanent symbol of the partnership. The music concert presented the modern culture of the partner municipalities. It was also space for amusement and creating a friendly atmosphere. Thus, it helped grow the friendships made during the event. The project culminated with the last activities. The mayors present made their concluding speeches. They thanked the participants for the perfect representation and the main organizer for the good organization. At the same time they expressed their request regarding the implementation of further joint events. Then the guests departed, respectively remained at the retro-discotheque. The retro-discotheque was an activity that helped create joy in the hearts of the participants and also promoted lasting friendships.