

The project « V jednotnej Európe je sila, hodnota a budúcnosť » 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 1 200 citizens, notably 50 participants from the city of Zenta (Serbia), 50 from the city of Gödöllő (Hungary), 45 from the city of Jindřichův Hradec (Czech Republic), 50 from the city of Zalaegerszeg (Hungary), and 1000 from the city of Dunajskej Stredy (Slovakia).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in **Dunajská Streda (Slovakia)**, from **28/04/2017** to **30/04/2017**

Short description:

The day of **28/04/2017** was dedicated to get in touch with the topics of the project. The goals and the program of the event were introduced in formal and non-formal way. The idea of cooperation in EU environment among participants was presented by mayor of Dunajská Streda. Mainly young people were focused on getting new information about EU and presenting what they know during the quiz. This funny and educational activity was followed by discussion about EU - its countries, travelling opportunities, differences and similarities among nations etc. During first day we highlighted the idea of tolerance and cooperation among EU nations and nationalities. Young people from countries/nations taking part in this activity reflecting the differences, history, cuisine, traditions, interesting facts about people living in partner`s countries. Children and EU - was the activity dedicated to children of pre-school age, where they could use various kinds of artistic techniques to show how they see the countries of EU.

Next day, **29/04/2017** was dedicated to Speakers` corner - young people could leave their messages for decision makers with ideas how to improve a life in EU on community level. Photomathon, in which children and young people took part, was dedicated to show the unity of EU nations during this day and showed unique moments from the partners` event. The event continued for youth, they were together with representatives of municipalities where by simulations and roll plays tried in simulated conversations how to communicate with each other and how they can cooperate on local activities and policy making processes. Other activity of the program was aimed on raising the level of knowledge about EU: its history, its policy, values, institutions and principles. Projects of cooperation on municipality level were presented, aimed on the field of local business, regional development, cross-border cooperation, education etc. Later on took place the discussion about future of EU and the challenges of these days. Within the activity „Solving of EU challenges“ were introduced the projects of non-profit organisations supporting the topic of migration and improvement the level of tolerance in EU countries. It continued with the meeting of representatives of the 3rd sector. By this activity the ceremonial commencement of cooperation with civic association Humana was starting by its first joint project. This activity was followed by story telling of formerly local citizens they moved abroad: about their life abroad, job opportunities, local education for foreigners and travelling. Participants could heard stories of citizens living now for few years in Germany, Hungary and Czech republic, which they presented personally. The day was ended by sport activity: a football match. Common European roots, cultural diversity and intercultural dialog was introduced by presentation of cultural heritage (folk dances, customs, art, national dishes) of the partners` countries.

The day of **30/04/2017** was dedicated to information activities, such as quiz and others, were all the citizens can raise up the level of knowledge about EU, ending ceremony closed successful event: mayor of Dunajská Streda thanked to all citizens for active participation and informed them about the project of potential future cooperation of partners.

Project “V jednotnej Európe je sila, hodnota a budúcnosť” introduced the cooperation of 5 partners from 4 countries. The main aim of the project was to raise a level of engagement of citizens (twinning towns) into dialogue about actual situation in EU and involving them into building of future EU. Second goal was to involved towns into solving of challenges of changing European union. By the goals, we supported the idea of building stable and functional units of EU - towns and regions - and its function: to inform, develop and educate their citizens based on EU values.

Two principals were applied in project: active participation of citizens on local and regional level (to influence the future of EU); support the partnership cooperation on the purpose of inspiration in the field of development, mutual dialogue and support.

Thanks to the diversity of programs` activities, we covered informational activities (to raise the level of basic information about EU, values of EU, principles of EU democracy), presented the diversity in EU, its countries, culture, nations and history. We strengthen the level of participation of citizens on local level, regional, national and EU level. We came back to region to support the cooperation among countries and regions in EU environment. In the times of changing Europe, we reflected the actual challenges: human rights protection, antidiscrimination and tolerance among nations. We opened the discussion about challenges (“problems“) of EU- euroscepticism, Brexit - and support people to better understand the EU of these days. We introduced voluntarism as one of the way how contribute to solving the EU challenges.