

The project « Power of Partnership » 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 520 citizens, notably 400 participants from the town of **Bulhary (Czech republic)**, 40 participants from the town of **Bodza (Slovakia)**, 40 participants from the town of **Bakonysárkány (Hungary)** and 40 participants from the town of **Dabronc (Hungary)**.

Location/ Dates: The event took place in **Bulhary (Czech republic)**, from **12/09/2014** to **14/09/2014**

Short description:

The day of 12/09/2014 was dedicated to meeting of inhabitants from different countries. The event started with the arrival of guests and the official opening at 17.30. As part of the opening the participants learned about the program, about the partner municipalities and the project itself. It was followed by a lecture on the EU. Within the lecture the participants obtained basic information about the EU and its benefits for citizens of the partner municipalities. Scheduling the lecture at the outset was an important step in highlighting one of the main themes of the project. Getting to know the EU was crucial for the activation of participants for the development of European citizenship. The lecture was led by an expert in EU issues. After the lecture, cultural performance of children from the partner municipalities followed. Children from each partner municipality presented their cultural skills, singing and little scenes. With their efforts they delighted the audience and gained a great applause. The evening belonged to familiarization of the participants with each other during the disco and tasting of local wines.

The day of 13/09/2014 was dedicated to uniting the citizens of partner municipalities. Saturday was divided into two blocks. The first started in the morning by the opening of the European info booth. It was a place where materials on the EU were available during the event. Each of the present participants and visitors had the opportunity to pick up promotional materials and learn about the EU and its policies. In the frame of the first block also sports activities, competitions, workshops and negotiations were organized. Commemorating the 2011 European year was realized by the voluntary blood donation and presentation of the work of the Red Cross and also by the activities devoted to healthy life. Several participants donated blood voluntarily; others in turn let taken their blood pressure and measured their cholesterol. Presentation of the work of the Red Cross was inspirational for future volunteers. At the same time sporting activities were going on as well. For sport lovers, mini football, zumba, Chi-toning and a variety of sports and fun contests for children were prepared, including the children's nook. Here the participants got relaxed and familiarized with each other. Part of the activities was the Euro-quiz for children and adults, where everyone could test their knowledge about the EU. There was a huge interest in the quiz and its results were surprising in positive terms. It was clear that the lecture "What do you know about the EU" from the previous day provided sufficient information for the participants. Shortly after noon, representatives of the partner municipalities sat at a negotiating table and their citizens sat down at a second one. Municipal representatives discussed the topic of future cooperation and the use of European funds for the development of partnership. Citizens debated on the creation of a Committee of citizens of partner municipalities that would be involved in e.g. organization of joint actions between citizens and associations of the partner municipalities, which would provide exchange of experience and mutual assistance. The results of both negotiations were recorded in the minutes, while the action plan of establishing the citizens' committee was developed. Parallel to the negotiations the exhibition of photographs, paintings and handicrafts was opened. It was followed by a cultural program block. Within it groups from the partner municipalities and from the home municipality and its surroundings performed. Each of them presented their traditions, customs and entertainment features. Culture was accompanied by tasting local wines and after the performances dance entertainment followed. The cultural part of the program has brought a new dimension to mutual relations between the inhabitants.

The day of 14/09/2014 was dedicated to rest and bonding within the EU. The morning program began with a festive worship in the church of St. Giles. After it the foreign visitors went on a short trip to nearby Valtice, where they viewed the castle originally belonging to the Lichtenstein family, and its surroundings. The whole afternoon was devoted to mutual uniting. The activity called Poxes of the Partnership brought together children from the partner municipalities. They jointly produced a memory game with pictures and words typical of their community and country. This memory game has become a symbolic link between the partner municipalities. Since the theme of the EU was one of the main themes, participants focused on it on Sunday, too. In the frame of free discussion citizens debated on current European issues, such as foreign policy towards Russia, elections to the EP, European financial resources for the countries of Central Europe and the like. After the discussion the home citizens bid farewell to the guests and wished them a safe journey home. The event was completed on schedule at 16:30.