

The project « Európsky zázrak (European miracle) » 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 650 citizens, notably 500 participants from the host town of Kalinkovo (**Slovakia**), 70 participants from the city of Dabas (**Hungary**), 60 participants from the town of Dolní Dunajovice (**Czechia**) and 70 participants from the city of Stara Pazova (**Serbia**).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Kalinkovo (Slovakia), from 01/07/2016 to 03/07/2016

Short description:

The day of 01/07/2016 the participants of the project devoted to the issue of European citizenship. It was a connecting element of the present members of four nations. This connection was going on in several levels - educational, social, historical and sports ones. The educational level was presented as a lecture on the EU's institutions, their work and the origins of European citizenship. The citizens were also discovering the benefits of the EU to their everyday life. The social level was presented in the form of introducing the partner municipalities, as well as joint workshops of children on topics associated with the EU. Children drew pictures of the EU together, thus indirectly expressing their views on this institution. The sport sphere was represented in the football tournament for children and youth, where school pupils of the partner municipalities and also from surrounding villages matched their strength. So children had the opportunity to connect with new friends from other countries. The last form of connection was experienced in remembering historical events. Witnesses of WWII were talking about the horrors of war, sharing their memories and experiences. This way they brought this unfortunate event closer to the listeners.

The day of 02/07/2016 the participants devoted themselves to further familiarization with European citizenship. Again it was a few levels - educational, cognitive and social ones. The education level was represented by presenting of the EU through promotional materials. Within the Europe Direct Information stand various brochures and leaflets about the EU, its institutions, policies and so on were handed out to citizens. Citizens could take these materials home in several languages, study them and learn something new. The cognitive level represented learning about the concept of volunteering. The present participants got to know the work of local volunteers, how they are beneficial to their community, society and others. They not only learned about new concepts but above all got ideas for their own involvement as volunteers. Within the presentation a discussion was also held on the topic of foreigners and minorities among us. The municipality of Kalinkovo, similarly to Dabas and Stara Pazova are ethnically mixed. Therefore they have direct experience with national minorities, with the coexistence of majority and minority. At the joint debate they discussed about coexistence with minorities and also coexistence with foreigners who moved to their settlements in the past. The social level plane was present in the spirit of presentation of culture, traditions, songs and dances. Here citizens had the opportunity to get closer to each other and break down barriers. Within these activities new international friendships were born.

The day of 03/07/2016 the participants devoted themselves to Europe's future. The workshop was aimed at getting engaged in creating a better future for Europe through a European initiative and at the fight against growing euro-scepticism. As a result, the feeling of belonging to each other and to the EU increased. Further activities were dedicated to the partnership and friendship. The partnership was focused on at the joint debate of municipal representatives and ordinary citizens. They debated together on the future direction of the partnership and its potential extension. This was a significant milestone in the partnership. Social activities were devoted to children (entertainment, games, exhibition of works) as well as to other generations (bicycle race, traditional lunch). These activities brought greater integration between the citizens of the partner municipalities and better mutual knowledge. The project as a whole helped look into the future of the partnership and the EU and created many cross-border friendships.