

## The project « Respect for European Culture » 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 862 citizens, notably 50 participants from the town of Kalinkovo (**Slovakia**), 28 participants from the city of Dabas (**Hungary**), 28 participants from the town of Dolní Dunajovice (**Czechia**), 28 participants from the city of Stara Pazova (**Serbia**), 28 participants from the city of Suplacu de Barcau (**Romania**).

**Location/ Dates:** The event took place in Kalinkovo (**Slovakia**), from 05/10/2018 to 07/10/2018

#### Short description:

The day of 05/10/2018 was dedicated to the two main themes: the future of Europe and the bonding of European nations. The program began with the welcome of foreign guests and the presentation of the Europe for Citizens Program as well as the program of the event. The opening of the #EuropeForCulture exhibition followed. It was an exhibition of drawings and photographs presenting the cultural heritage of individual partners. This has led to the better recognition of partners through cultural elements. The follow-up talk was devoted to countries in Central Europe, including all partners and their status within the EU. This is how we responded to the continuous division of Europe on Western and Eastern countries. The joint debate has opened up the need to strengthen ties between all EU countries. The educational part of the program continued with a seminar on the future of Europe. Here participants presented topics related to EP elections and the need to vote, as well as issues such as brexit, growing populism, and so on. The participants discussed these topics and became a possible future for Europe. The evening belonged to social activities and the bonding of citizens.

The day of 06/10/2019 was dedicated to the cultural heritage of European nations. This theme was presented through different activities/views. Firstly, it was the presentation of projects in the field of cultural cooperation, in which the partners participated together or separately. The Town Twinning project, which partners jointly implemented in 2016, was also presented here. Except this, another projects with the topics of supporting cultural associations, the culture of national minorities, and so on were done by partners and presented here. For the youngest participants a fun arena was set up during the day. Here kids have had the opportunity not only to play but also to meet new friends from other countries. In the afternoon, partners discussed about Solidarity. Partners and their active citizens discussed about different areas of solidarity that can be applied locally - from helping the elderly to removing barriers in buildings. In the afternoon the program has reverted again to cultural heritage. In the context of a lecture about UNESCO, the topic of cultural heritage protection in the individual countries was brought to the forefront. The project joined with this lecture the themes of the current European Year. The partners also debated about forms of illicit trafficking in cultural heritage. Partner do not have direct experience with this but the debate was aimed at promoting greater protection of art and culture. Young people from partner towns took part in a model session of the European Parliament. This activity has helped to raise awareness of the forthcoming 2019 European Parliament elections, which are far from being discussed in the individual countries. For the participants was also film corner in the afternoon. It has featured films on migration theme. These were documentary films capturing the 2015/2016 migration wave, as well as the settlement of foreigners in EU countries. The evening belonged to the traditional culture and specifically to the presentations of the traditional culture and folklore of the individual partner municipalities. Later, a presentation of modern culture was added.

The day of 07/10/2019 was dedicated to the sport, cooperation and the future. In the morning both sport and cooking competition of the traditional specialties of the partners were carried out. It was mainly a cooking of cabbage soup, but also a goulash, halaszle, and more. The aim was to bring the participants closer together. A discussion was held between the representatives of municipalities. Together, they discussed the partnership, the cultural exchanges that brought it together, but also how they care for cultural institutions. This exchange of experience has brought new ideas into partnership. Cooperation in the field of culture was another talk/forum, which was attended by town's representatives and by ordinary citizens as well. Together they sought project ideas for collaborative projects. The future of the EU has been the subject of the last debate. Partners, together with representatives of the EuropeDirect Center discussed what awaits Europe in the coming period and what consequences it may have. The project ended with an evaluation.