

The project « Past Is Linked with Future » was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Applicable to the Action 1, Measure 1.1
"Town Twinning Citizens' Meetings"

Participation: The project involved 900 citizens, notably 700 participants from the host municipality of Kostolné Kračany (**Slovakia**), 90 participants from the municipality of Rábapátona (**Hungary**) and 60 participants from the municipality of Stara Moravica.

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Kostolné Kračany (**Slovakia**), from 20/06/2014 to 22/06/2014

Short description:

The day of 20/06/2014 was dedicated especially to the EU (get to know EU). The first day started with the arrival and welcome of foreign participants. The mayor of the municipality spoke to the people present, who welcomed the foreign guests and invited them to the event. It was followed by the opening of the exhibition of works of art made on topic of Citizen at a crossroads. This way the project was not only involved in the activities of the European year 2013, but brought a new perspective on the European citizen who is at a crossroads between the past and the future, between tradition, religion and globalization. The exhibition was followed by a lecture on the European Union, its functioning, values and history. Here the people present learned basic information about the EU, which helped them understand the processes associated with it. For participants from Serbia the lecture was a valuable source of information about the EU as an organization to which they wish to enter. In the evening, the foreign guests viewed the home village, its individual parts, sights and monuments located in it and got to know the way the home inhabitants live. The day was completed with musical concerts and campfire, where the participants began to familiarize.

The day of 21/06/2014 was dedicated to joining seniors of the partner municipalities to the program to a greater extent. It was mainly a joint sitting, joint activities and exchange of experiences related to passing free time in the senior age. Given that all present seniors come from rural communities, their days are filled mainly by working in the garden and carrying out manual works. Within the activities bonds of friendship arose among seniors from different parts of Europe. Children were also involved in the activities. Through games they were transferred to the world of tales and got to know different characters and entertained well. By the involvement of the elderly and children we wanted to highlight their importance within the partnership. The roundtable was another activity of the day. It was a negotiation of municipal leaders and active citizens about the future of the partnership. Ideas concerning further development of the partnership and help provided to Serbia about EU accession originated here. The afternoon program started with volunteering activities. First of all, it was a film screening on volunteering and, secondly, work of the voluntary fire department was presented to the participants. By these activities, the project recalled the European Year 2011. This was followed by an ecumenical service conducted in the open air in Hungarian. There was room for spirituality and peace. After the church service performances of singing and dance groups from all partner municipalities followed. The partner municipalities presented their culture and folklore through music, songs and dances. This helped the participants get better to know the identity of the individual countries. The end of the day belonged to entertainment associated with reinforcement of friendships.

The day of 22/06/2014 was dedicated to focus on connecting generations. Given the huge age difference, it was a significant benefit. Within the morning program a special activity for both target groups was carried out: "Games of our grandpas and grandmas - teaching old children's games", in which children have learned the old games of their ancestors and seniors were engaged in educating younger generations. Thus both generations were symbolically linked and ties and understanding strengthened between them. The afternoon belonged to sport and culture. First the teams from partner municipalities measured their strength in football. This was followed by children's cultural program. Children acted in the Saturday cultural program and they also had a separate block on Sunday, in which they showed their musical and dancing skills. The theatre performance helped create a friendly atmosphere and confirm the acquired friendly relations. After this, the guests said good-bye and left for their homes.