

The project « ART 4 Europe / Europe 4 ART » 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 600 citizens, notably 400 participants from the city of Nesvady (**Slovakia**), 40 participants from the town of Szulok (**Hungary**), 40 participants from the town of Nagyigmánd (**Hungary**), 40 participants from the city of Ács (**Hungary**), 30 participants from the city of Berghia (**Romania**), 30 participants from the city of Subotica (**Serbia**), 20 participants from the city of Wien (**Austria**).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Nesvady (**Slovakia**), from 16/08/2021 to 22/08/2022

Short description:

The day of 16/08/2021 was dedicated to getting to know each other. It was about getting to know each other, getting to know the languages of the nations present, getting to know art. Getting to know was important in bringing together participants from five countries. The first activity after the arrival of foreign guests was the ceremonial opening of the event and the opening of the art camp. The program of the event and the support to the project by the EU were presented. Familiarizing games between the participants followed. Within them, the participants were divided into groups, where they played various games with the need for social interaction with others, thanks to which the participants got to know each other in groups. The program continued with the Language Window. Within it, the participants learned the basic phrases in the languages of the partners. These were words like: hello, hi, thank you, good appetite, etc. Here, the participants had the opportunity to meet new people from abroad in a creative way. The day ended with music and an opportunity for further informal getting to know each other.

The day of 17/08/2021 was dedicated to interactivity and creativity. First and foremost, it was about artistic creativity. As part of the Creativity Olympics, the younger participants produced art objects from various materials. As a result, they had the opportunity to learn how to make items like our ancestors. This was followed by deeping into the getting to know of the language of each country present. The reading in the languages of the partners took place within the Reading Window. After learning the basic language phrases, reading was the second step to overcoming language barriers. The European Union also went to the front, in the form of an interactive lecture on its functioning. In this way, those present had the opportunity to learn more about the EU, how it works, how it was formed and what common policies it pursues. This developed European awareness. An important element of the project was also the discussion on migration. The historian explained to the present participants the history of the migration of nations in the past, how and why it happened. He also drew a parallel with the current migration crisis. The participants also discussed the forced exchange of citizens between Hungary and Slovakia after World War II.

The day of 18/08/2021 was dedicated to the topic of migration and solidarity. These were presentations and discussions and a charity fundraising. During the discussion with foreigners who live in Slovakia for a long time and sociologist, participants had the opportunity to learn the pitfalls of the necessary move to other countries (due to war, oppression, etc.), such as admission to the community, learning the home language or people's reactions to foreigners. Solidarity as the main topic of the day was presented in the form of a presentation of the activities of non-profit organizations that help people and foreigners to integrate into life in Slovakia. As a result, the topic of migration has been presented from a different perspective. The need for solidarity with migrants leaving their homes due to ongoing conflicts was also emphasized. The importance of the presentation and discussion and the charity fundraising was the need to volunteer and help out. Creative workshops and sports competitions were held for children and young people within the program. This allowed children from different parts of Europe to get closer. The writing window brought knowledge of specific letters of individual languages. As a result, language barriers were breaking down again.

The day of 19/08/2021 was dedicated to the topic of Euroscepticism. Successful projects of the partners and the home town of Nesvady, which were implemented in the past period and which were financially supported by the EU, were presented. This brought the EU's positive effects on citizens to the forefront. The citizens' parliament has been an element in bringing together civic activists in search of common solutions for the partnership and the EU. It was an exchange of views and experiences. During the day, foreign participants had the opportunity to get to know the home town of Nesvady and its surroundings. The seniors had a joint sitting to discuss active aging. The Narrative Window served to overcome language barriers. It was about telling stories and fairy tales typical for individual countries.

The day of 20/08/2021 was dedicated to integration. This means that topics related to the integration of minorities and foreigners into the majority society were presented, as well as examples of good practice. The discussion was held with an organization dedicated to helping migrants. Organization helps them to communicate with domestic authorities in dealing with official matters. National minorities living within the town and cities where the partners come from were also introduced. Last but not least, successful projects were presented as examples of good practice aimed at integrating minorities (especially Roma) in individual countries. The second topic of the day was volunteering. During the discussion, citizens learned about its basic principles and importance in European society. The partners discussed the future together, too. A creative workshop was held for the children during the day.

The day of 21/08/2021 was dedicated to the European Union. As a result, learning about the EU has taken on a new dimension. The EU tent brought promotional and information items about the EU. Fun games and quizzes, in turn, tested participants' knowledge of the EU. The screening of the film "Refugee" about the journey of migrants to Europe was a memento of the events of the turn of 2015/2016, when millions of people tried to get to Europe. Art camp was evaluated during the day. The artists presented their works to the public. The afternoon belonged to the culture and performances of folk and dance groups from five corners of Europe. Social activities, cultural performances or entertainment served to bring participants together, get to know each other and overcome prejudices and barriers, especially language ones.

The day of 22/08/2021 was dedicated to the confirmation of friendships, but also to the current EU topics. Interesting projects supported by the EU were presented within the activities. In addition, recent European initiatives (such as the debate about Europe) were presented. Participants had the opportunity to get familiar with the culture of the Roma minority. This element meant at least partially overcoming prejudices against this minority. The exhibition of photographs brought a glimpse into history, into the lives of ordinary people in the past. The creation of a common memorial was an element of the strengthening the partnership. The last activities were connected with the evaluation of the event and farewell among the participants.