

The project « Breath of Europe » 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 750 citizens, notably 600 participants from the host town of Rúbaň and its surrounding (**Slovakia**), 25 participants from the city of Colmar (**France**), 25 participants from the city of Gorizia (**Italy**), 25 participants from the city of Tokod (**Hungary**), 25 participants from the city of Mikulov (**Czech republic**), 25 participants from the city of Lendava (**Slovenia**), 25 participants from the city of Halászi (**Hungary**).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Rúbaň (**Slovakia**), from 07/09/2018 to 08/09/2018

Short description:

The day of 07/09/2018 was dedicated to the following themes: Euroscepticism not for Europe and Solidarity among European citizens. The event was started in the morning. The guests from abroad arrived either the day before or in the morning. The event was opened by representatives of the partner organisations CENTRUM PROSPERITY, O.Z., Conseil Interprofessionnel des Vins d Alsace, Agenzia regionale per lo sviluppo rurale ERSA, Tokodi Borkultúra Egyesület, Město Mikulov, Ustvarjalno BONUS, and Halászi község önkormányzat. During the ceremonial opening the project was presented together with the financial support from the European Commission and other important information for the participants. After the opening, there was a workshop with a EuropeDirect Komárno representative on Euroscepticism in the EU countries. The workshop presented the EU attitudes confronted with the views of other present partners. The European themes were also attended by the youngest participants who could play games oriented on the EU and paint EU symbols on the concrete. In the afternoon, the participants focused on learning about the benefits of their countries being members of the EU. The already implemented project were introduced, all co-financed by the EU. Another activity was focused on EU introduction. There was an interactive lecture providing new information and knowledge for the participants. In the course of the following debate the participants could express their opinions about the EU. The evening activities of the day 1 were focused on solidarity. There was prepared a symbolic street of non-profit organizations presenting local and national non-profit organizations as well as NGOs of the partners or those coming from the partners' regions. The participants could become aware of volunteering and they could confront themselves with what they could do for their own municipalities / dear ones for free. Another activity of the day was the introduction of solidarity in the EU. Next activities were also devoted mainly to NGOs. First of all, there was an Exchange of experience between the project partners within the workshop Volunteering for us and against us. Then, there were creative workshops showing practical skills of craftsmen and enabling the participants to take part in creation of decorative items in order to support the activities of NGOs.

The day of 08/09/2018 was dedicated to the following themes: Migrants in Europe and Cultural heritage. The first activity was the Exhibition of photographs capturing the current migration crisis. The exhibition showed lives of the migrants. Then, there was a discussion on human rights. The participants confronted their tolerance with their understanding of other people (foreigners and minorities). This was supported by showing the movie Aj my sme tu doma (This is also our home), created by the public television on foreigners living in Slovakia for a long time. The movie is about assimilation with majority and various barriers the foreigners had to overcome. In the context of tolerance, there was also presented the Roma culture – through Roma bands. The presentation of the Roma culture shows minority culture and traditions. The afternoon and evening belonged to the culture of nations. The traditions of the Strekov region were presented, together with viticulture and products made in creative workshops. The traditional gastronomy was also presented – traditional dishes from various regions and the partners' regions. The participants could visit vineyards and wine producers. The activities enabled them to learn about the domestic region and find its characteristics. The evening was devoted to cultural performances of artists from the partner regions. Culture helped in connecting the participants informally, thus strengthening the partnership.