

The project « Great Thing will happen in Velky Meder » 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 1200 citizens, notably 1000 participants from the city of Veľký Meder (**Slovakia**), 40 participants from the city of Dobruška (**Czechia**), 40 participants from the city of Bácsalmás (**Hungary**), 40 participants from the city of Ábrahámhegy (**Hungary**), 40 participants from the city of Lendava (**Slovenia**) and 40 participants from the city of Sangeorgiu de Padure (**Romania**).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Veľký Meder (**Slovakia**), from 20/08/2021 to 22/08/2021

Short description:

The day of 20/08/2021 was dedicated to connecting citizens coming from different corners of Europe. It was a connection through visual arts, through learning about the EU and membership in the EU, connecting through learning about history and connecting in the field of culture. Artists with works on the theme of the World around us were the first to present themselves. These were works of art and photography. Later that day, the younger participants got to know the EU from the point of view of various interests. In the same way, adults have addressed the topic of learning about the EU as part of the discussion about 17 years of membership in the EU. Volunteers also introduced themselves. During the discussion, those present could get to know the work of the volunteers. In the early evening, a discussion was held about II. World War and the Velvet Revolution. The task was to remind the totalitarian regimes and why they are not good in today's world. The project also involved national minorities, specifically the Roma, who presented their culture to the general public.

The day of 21/08/2021 was dedicated to learning about the role of the EU and learning about the culture of the nations of Europe. Learning about the role of the EU in our lives was realized through learning about EU programs for young people, through the presentation of projects co-financed from EU funds, through the migration crisis and its effects. As part of the project, the youth discussed about EU programs for young people, the opportunities offered within the framework of European citizenship and the EU in general with a representative of Europe Direct. Adult participants learned about the stories of migrants and volunteers that happened during the 2015-2016 migration crisis. The goal was to make people change their minds about volunteering and solidarity. Projects implemented by individual partners, or organizations operating in the territory of partner cities, which were co-financed from ESIF, were also presented. The second part of the activities was devoted to culture. On the one hand, the present nations got to know each other through traditions and gastronomy. On the other hand, they got to know each other through cultural performances. Thanks to this, the participants connected and got to know each other.

The day of 22/08/2021 was dedicated to national minorities and their activation. A holy mass was held in the morning. The discussion with members of minorities who are well-known personalities in the twin cities helped to develop relations between the majority and minorities. These were examples of how to eliminate discrimination and how to promote equality. Culture of minorities is also connected with minorities. It was presented to the general public. The involvement of the civil principle in the partnership was supported. During the meeting with the representatives of the partner cities, various topics related to the partnership were discussed, as well as the future of the EU. The last activities brought the participants together and helped strengthen mutual partnership and friendship.