

The project « Common values, common challenges, common European future » - 606634-CITIZ-1-2018-2-RO-CITIZ-TT 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 358 citizens, notably 30 participants from the city of Edelény (**Hungary**), 33 participants from the locality of Gersekarát (**Hungary**), 51 participants from the city of Nyíradony (**Hungary**), 10 participants from the localities of Kishegyes - Мали Иђош / Mali Iđoš (**Serbia**), 26 participants from the locality of Kamocsa - Obec Komoča (**Slovakia**) and 208 participants from the city of Săcueni (**Romania**).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Săcueni, **Romania**, from 13/06/2019 to 16/06/2019.

Short description:

The day of 14/06/2019 was dedicated to the economic, social and other benefits of the European Union.

The presentations, which were held in the Saint László hall of the City Museum, praised the importance of community, active citizenship, responsible actions of the NGOs, the planning, the achievement and the active participation. Due to these topics, we have listened various presentations about the fact where we have started and where we would arrive if we lived according to the community's belief, if we planned and became active in Europe. After the brief welcome speech of the Mayor Béres Csaba, the event organizer Aszalós Timea who is the president of the NGO Ér Hangja has outlined the aim of this event. She has spoken about the importance of a friendly dialogue where it can be discussed the daily challenges and the new beginnings, then she officially opened the event. According to the program, the participating representatives of the towns have presented themselves, they have discussed the innovations, the projects and the follow-ups after joining the European Union. The Serbian participant could not relate to this due to fact that they have not joined the EU yet.

Tastes, countrysides, values

On Friday afternoon, the visiting town representatives had the possibility to show their hometowns from a different perspective, this is a very important way how to preserve the traditional values, the traditional food, the home-grown products, and the exhibition of the folk arts. Each visiting town had a stall where they could exhibit their home-grown products, such as fruit syrups, different kind of honey and jam and other delicious foods. Due to the exhibited products, we had an insight in the unique gastronomical world, moreover we could see the variety of different folk arts. Were presented the folk dances, but also the choral and folk songs of the participating localities too.

The day of 15/06/2019 was dedicated to the Actualities of the EU, The timeline of the EU from 1950 until nowadays, How to become a better citizen, a better EU citizen?

During this EU sponsored twin town event about *Common values, common challenges and common European future*, the audience could listen to interesting interactive speeches about the past of the European Union, its' present challenges, the situation of EU citizens and other perspectives in the hall of the local museum on Saturday morning starting from 10 am.

The audience was mostly composed by the representatives of the partners, the first conference was held by **Szabó Ödön**, member of the Hungarian political party RMDSZ (Romanian Hungarian Democratic Association), the presentation was about *The timeline of European Union from the 1950s till nowadays*. He has managed to hold a speech about the EU past till nowadays, talking about the challenges the European community had to face. The European Union has developed from the year 1951, taking into account the 1957 Roman contract, which has been signed only by 6 countries then: Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg. In 2004 Hungary has also joined the EU with 9 other countries, then in the last round in 2007 Romania and Bulgaria have become members of the EU. Due to this long lasting Brexit crisis, the UK wishes to leave the EU, there is a chance that the EU should get smaller. Regarding the functioning of the EU, there are great challenges and sensitive points such as the rhythm of expansion of the EU, the speed of supporting the member countries and to expand the Schengen borders. The development of the EU depends on different levels of approaches.

Mr Széll Lőrincz, the director of Youth and Sport Direction of Hunyad county has discussed the challenges provided by the EU and the situation of youth. And again, the mayor of our town, **Béres Csaba** related a very interesting speech about How to be a better citizen, how to be a better European citizen? his speech was spiced with different ideas and personal experiences and with humour as well. All these speeches offered enough space for the audience to provide questions or even to interfere with their own experiences and personal observation.

The day of 16/06/2019 was dedicated to The possibilities of cooperation and our common gastronomic values.

On the closing day of the twin town event, the participating towns could cook their own traditional dish in a cauldron, on Sunday. It had a competitive feeling, all representatives cooked their best food. This event was organized in the strand of Gyermek Jézus Centre, regardless of the summer heat, there was a great atmosphere and the participants could taste the different delicious food, and they had the chance to taste and to tell the difference between the traditional food.

Future opportunities for collaboration have been continuously discussed. There is already a proposal for a town twinning meeting application and its implementation in Edelény, as well as events to be organized on the framework of other programs.

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