

The project « Together in past and present for better 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 325 citizens, notably 50 participants from the city of Tarcaia (**Romania**), 50 participants from the city of Felsotarkany (**Hungary**), 50 participants from the city of Mezőtarkany (**Hungary**), 50 participants from the city of Tarkany (**Hungary**), 125 participants from the city of Velke Trakany (**Slovakia**).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in **Velke Trakany, Slovakia**, from 05/06/2015 to 07/06/2015.

Short description:

05/06/2015: in the morning the groups of the partner settlements have arrived. After the greeting, accommodation and a short rest the group leaders clarified in the municipal offices which programs will be implemented by joint forces. During the common lunch also some requirements for the successful completion of the appointment were discussed.

At 14:00 pm the first EU programme, which had the title: Young people in the European Union, has started. Especially schoolchildren and young people took part in it. Project manager Zsuzsa Nagy presented the various options in a good atmosphere, in the form of talk: possibility of learning, submission of various summer camps and own projects. Additional information were told on the Erasmus+ education program and the role of the Eurodesk network. Also individual questions of the young people were answered and new knowledge has been provided for them.

From 18:00 pm an intimate cultural show was presented by the guests. They showed in a diverse and interesting way what kind of cultural activities are currently performed in their settlements. At the same time also the relationship between them got closer.

06/06/2015: the family programmes started at 10:00 am. The children and the playful adults could clash during many competitions and funny matches. Fair, slides, attractions related to crafts entertained the audience. Also the flavours of the region could be tasted at the tents of local products.

At 14:00 pm the opening ceremony of the exhibition started. This exhibition contained the works of the partner's young people. The exhibition's theme was: European Union by eyes of the children, and every partner took part in the creative process. So the next generation will be aware of the importance and role of the EU in their lives in a creative way.

The Grand Opening took place at 14:30 pm on the small stage under the Events Barn. Besides the mayors of the settlements also EU representative Csaba Sógor and Pál Csáky and several respected public figures held a welcome speech. József Kopasz took over the migratory flag of Tárkány-settlements, which will belong to the village for 1 year. This year György Bajzát (Felsőtárkány), Gábor Adorján (Mezőtárkány) and Lajos Futó (Tárkány) could take over the Pro Bono Publico Award.

The rich cultural programme began at 15:00 pm. The performance was held by the local Arany Tisza Folk Dance Group, the Kisgéres Zither Orchestra, the Napraforgó Folk Dance Group from Csicsér and local kindergarden and school children. Miroslav Sýkora entertained the audience with operetta melodies with great success. The Agyagbanda from Miskolc gave a sensational show – they played their music mingled in the audience.

Besides the cultural programme there were also discussions with members of EU-parliament about the role of some countries in the EU and also about many, current political and public life topics. At the same time, quasi as a good example, short movies were played about the improvement of the Tárkány-settlements since joining the EU. These movies could be watched in the main hall of the community centre.

The common dinner was at 18:00 pm.

From 20:00 pm the concerts and the common entertainment were continued. At 20:30 pm the popular Transylmania group gave a performance, which was warmly welcomed both by the guests and the local people. Saturday was closed by the local FMD group and Family Duo, giving a good mood for elder people too.

07/06/2015: the city was woken up at 08:00 am by the sounds of brass band from Sátoraljaújhely. The daily programme started in a good mood; the next event was the gathering for the parade in front of the municipal office.

At 9:30 am the crowd marched to the Tárkányok Square where Ádám Szesztay, the Slovakian Consul General of Hungary held a ceremonial speech. After this the decorative ribbons were pinned up to the Tárkányok Memorial Pillar. This action symbolizes the unity, helping and respecting each other since many years, beyond borders.

At 10:20 am the crowd marched to Heroes Square where the Memorial Plaque of the fallen soldiers of World War I and II was solemnly inaugurated. István Zachariáš, vice president of county Kassa and Gyula Bárdos, national president held a festive speech. From 11 am the ecumenical ceremony took place, where the local historical churches were represented (Roman and Greek catholic, protestant and evangelical denominations). The World War Memorial Plaque and the bread of the Tárkány were blessed.

There was one more program for the public: the wreathing at 12:00. The event was closed by marching of young people wearing traditional costumes.

After the programme the guest and the hosts took part in a common lunch. This was followed by the common programme of the partnership, where the future plans and their realization was discussed in a free discussion. Also the partnership was strengthened, which aims to have such a good cooperation between the municipalities and their citizens in the coming years, as it was until now. In a joint brief evaluation the whole event, some programme points and the accomplished goals were evaluated. The meeting was closed by a long farewell and the most beautiful and happiest moments of the past days were revived.