

The project «Meeting of equal citizens - Every opinion and every vote counts» 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 384 citizens, notably 60 participants from the city of Nyíregyháza – Fialatok Kulturális Szövetsége (Hungary), 40 participants from the city of Győr – Arrabonus Egyesület (Hungary), 60 participants from the city of Kojetín (Czech Republic), 20 participants from the city of Kragujevac - UME (Serbia), 25 participants from the city of Sološnica – Reedukačné centrum (Slovakia), 29 participants from the city of Veľké Leváre - Reedukačné centrum (Slovakia), 150 participants from the city of Senica – Záhorácky Fénix (Slovakia).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Senica, Slovakia, from 14/06/2019 to 16/06/2019.

Short description:

The following topics were discussed and the following activities were implemented during the meeting:
June 14th 2019.

The foreign groups were arriving on this day permanently. The delegations were welcomed and put to the right direction regarding the accommodation and further programs by the members of the applicant organization. The members of the Luventa organization based in Bratislava, talked about the European Solidarity Board, an initiative that offers interesting opportunities for young people undertaking volunteer work in a well-organized and secure framework. They also provided information on the Erasmus + program, which is the EU's most widely known and popular program. The foreigners introduced themselves briefly in the evening, which was also a good opportunity to focus on the cultural heritage of the countries represented. These were presented with pictures and brief descriptions. We received a lot of information from the Europe Direct Senica's office, which we also made available to those interested. The folk costume presentation had a great success, which belongs to the cultural specificity of the region. Then the participants had a typical local specialty dinner.

June 15th 2019.

Many sports and active leisure activities awaited the visitors during the day. They could play soccer, beach volleyball, or perform handicraft activities (gingerbread decoration) as well. The demonstrations of the different groups were very interesting: the police introduced their trained dogs and horses and those interested, were able to sit in police and fire-fighting vehicles. The civilian defenders taught emergency management practices and the Red Crosses taught resuscitation. Those who would have liked to, could also cook - the Hungarian team prepared a curd of beef stew which was later eaten by those who had applied with good appetite.

Many programs were linked to culture - participants introduced themselves with traditional and contemporary dances and songs. The presentation of the children from the boarding-school was very interesting. They took part in a specific conversation as well on the subject of elections- both at Member State and European Parliament level. We also emphasized the importance of their vote during the conversation, because the voices of the young Roma boarding-school pupils are as valid as the others in the course of the vote. We also talked about whether there is a representation of his social group in the EP.

We visited the cultural heritage of the region together in the afternoon - we visited the Holíč Castle where historical dresses were presented to us. This was followed by a visit to a local, small brewery where we tasted the drinks they produced and dined together.

The fun was going on in the evening with music and singing.

June 16th 2019.

Several people made a small tour to the surrounding forests on this day, which are unique in having extremely sandy soil, so some dunes can be observed in some places. Other groups were involved in cleaning of the terrain and landscaping, until all the garbage and other waste was gone. After that, the final programs took place - the teams gathered for a final evaluation interview, during which they discussed what programs and activities they had liked and which had won their sympathies less. There was also an exchange of contact data, as several common ideas and project ideas were formulated. The guests went home after the farewell and the gift-giving.

