

**The project « We protect European cultural heritage » 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 975 citizens, notably 800 participants from the town of Ratíškovice (**Czech Republic**), 70 participants from the town of Popudinské Močidl'any (**Slovakia**), 60 participants from the Microregion 11 PLUS (**Slovakia**), 20 participants from the city of Ville de Vouziers (**France**), 25 participants from the city of Daruvar (**Croatia**).

**Location/ Dates:** The event took place in Ratíškovice (**Czech Republic**), from 12/07/2019 to 14/07/2019

**Short description:**

The day of 12/07/2019 was dedicated to the themes of developing European citizenship and activating citizens. The mayor of the home village welcomed the guests. Subsequently, the participants moved to the topic of migration. A documentary film on migrants entitled "Refugees" was screened. The screening of the film inspired discussion on this topic. The film was made during the migration crisis in 2015/2016 and was shot by a Czech documentarist. During the discussion, the participants debated various aspects of migration, not only the one that was ongoing until 2015. The development of European citizenship was helped by a meeting with a Czech MP. Citizens had the opportunity to present their views on current events in the Czech Republic and Europe. The evening program helped the participants relax and familiarise with each other.

The day of 13/07/2019 was dedicated to volunteering. Volunteering was presented as well as practical demonstrations of how it can work locally. Non-profit organizations and the work of young volunteer firemen were presented to citizens. Citizens thus received incentives to help others. The creative workshops brought together the participants at the creation of EU pictures and ceramic art. This was a demonstration of traditions and a civic demonstration of people's views of the EU. An important and beneficial activity was the exhibition to mark the anniversary of the end of the First World War. The opening of the exhibition was shaped to focus on young people who make up the future of Europe but are not interested in the past. The opening was a memento of conflict prevention, which is also served by the existence of the EU. This activity helped to activate citizens. The presentation of the EU at the European stall was a form of educating citizens about this international organization. Citizens have little information about it and therefore presenting its history, functioning or policies was a necessary element for the development of awareness. The activity has created a closer relationship between citizens and the EU. The cultural presentations of children also helped connect people. Culture has become the basis for bringing together not only children but also all participants from different European countries.

The day of 14/07/2019 was dedicated to both culture and the European Union. In the frame of the European stall topics related to the EU were presented - history, functioning of the EU, EU policies. These included discussions, distribution of promotional materials, etc. The European stall also brought discussions of young people with representatives of the partner municipalities, which helped to activate them. The topic of the European Union was also addressed in the lecture. Culture was connected with the performances of brass bands from the twin towns. Both young musicians and representatives of older generations performed. Brass music has a long tradition with all partners and therefore the involvement of these activities in the project was exceptional. The brass band performances were also a presentation of the cultural diversity of the peoples of Europe. The project ended with a joint greeting and a wish to meet again in a year.