

The project « Europe is a partner, Europe as a partner » 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 475 citizens, notably 300 participants from the town of Ratíškovice (**Czechia**), 70 participants from the town of Popudiunbské Močďany (**Slovakia**), 15 participants from the town of Vouziers (**France**), 30 participants from the town of Daruvar (**Croatia**) and 60 participants from the region of Micreregion 11 PLUS (**Slovakia**).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Ratíškovice (**Czech Republic**), from 27/10/2021 to 29/10/2021

Short description:

The day of 27/10/2021 was dedicated to the importance of EU membership. The project began with a festive welcome of guests. The guests were welcomed by the mayor of the home town at the municipal office. Subsequently, the participants moved to the local elementary school, where an exhibition of children's drawings and posters about the EU was installed. The children showed their opinion about the EU as they see it. This was followed by a presentation of important milestones and benefits of 17 years of EU membership (for the Czech Republic and Slovakia). Successful projects, significant events and benefits of the EU for municipalities and their citizens were presented. After the presentation, the present guests met with the member of the Senate of the Czech Republic. We discussed EU-related issues, international relations and international partnership together. The evening program had a relaxing and introductory character.

The day of 28/10/2021 was dedicated to the topic of traditions and volunteering. Traditions were the first to be presented in the form of demonstrations of folk creativity of the citizens of the partner municipalities. Creative workshops were also held and cultural traditions came to the fore in the evening. Ensembles representing partners presented their cultural customs. Culture has become the basis for bringing together all participants from different European countries. The languages of the present partners were also presented here. The topic of volunteering was presented as practical examples of how it can work at the local level. Citizens were introduced to non-profit organizations from the home community. During the day, activities focused on the EU and history also took place. The topic of the EU was associated with a presentation in the form of distributing promotional materials. An important and beneficial activity was a discussion with a historian about Changes in Czechoslovakia and Europe in 1989 - a discussion with a historian, stories of people. It was a reminder of the events that led the countries of Central Europe on the democratic path. The discussion was also connected with the commemoration of the anniversary of the founding of the Czechoslovak Republic.

The day of 29/10/2021 was dedicated to both culture and the topic of migration. In the morning, some of the participants, who have never been to Ratíškovice, took a tour of the village. The second part attended holly mass. A discussion followed with volunteers who helped migrants in Serbia and Greece. During the discussion, those present learned about the stories of migrants and what it means to leave home and run away from the war. The culture was associated with the entry of brass bands from partner towns. Both young musicians and 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 performances of brass bands were also a presentation of the cultural diversity of the peoples of Europe. The project ended with a discussion of representatives of partner municipalities and citizens regarding the need for greater activation of young people in public affairs. The last activity was a common greeting and a desire to meet again.