

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	[1] - [Obec Ratíškovice] ([Ratíškovice])
PIC number:	[937003123]
Project name and acronym:	[Hold on to Europe] — [HotE]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	[1]
Event name:	[Hold on to Europe]
Type:	[public event]
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	[Czechia], [Ratíškovice]
Date(s):	[26/10/2023 – 28/10/2023]
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.ratiskovice.com/kultura/osvetova-beseda/projekt-hold-on-to-europe/
Participants	
Female:	340
Male:	340
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Slovakia]:	110
From country 2 [France]:	15
From country 3 [Croatia]:	55
From country 4 [Czechia]	500
Total number of participants:	680
From total number of countries:	4
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	
<p>The event was implemented as a series of activities carried out over three days. Within them, topics related to learning about the EU, its principles, but also current events and the culture of the 4 nations were presented. Implemented activities can be divided into 5 areas. They are as follows:</p>	
Activities aimed at increasing citizens' interest in the EU	

It involved the implementation of activities: About Europe - presentation of successful projects supported by the EU mechanisms; Meeting of representatives of delegations with a senator from the Czech Republic and a member of the EP; About Europe - provision of information brochures about the EU; Volunteers in partnership – presentation of volunteers and non-profit organizations from partner municipalities; About Europe - The beginning of European democracy; About Europe - How we helped and how we can help - discussion with volunteers. As part of these activities, we raised the European awareness of citizens. The activities helped to change the attitudes of Eurosceptic citizens towards the EU. The discussion about the EU and how citizens imagine it was encouraged. The result is a stronger sense of responsibility for the European project.

Activities aimed at developing the partnership in the aspect of greater internal integration

It involved the implementation of activities: Meeting of representatives of delegations with a senator from the Czech Republic and a member of the EP; Discussion with representatives of the municipality about the involvement of citizens in public affairs, discussion with partner municipalities; Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities; Welcome to Ratíškovice. As part of these activities, we strengthened the partnership. The partnership is several years old and still needs new incentives. The project provided an opportunity for the partners to meet and exchange experience and know-how in the various fields they are engaged in. In this way, the best practices of individuals constructively reached the whole of Europe. By involving active citizens in the partnership, its survival into the future was ensured.

Activities aimed at highlighting solidarity and volunteering as values for young generations

It involved the implementation of activities: Volunteers in partnership – presentation of volunteers and non-profit organizations from partner municipalities; Solidarity with seniors; About Europe - How we helped and how we can help - a discussion with volunteers on current topics. As part of these activities, we provided incentives for citizens to be more interested in the events around them. Through solidarity and volunteerism, we have created cohesion, which will allow us to respond better to crises and challenges. As part of the project, volunteering was presented to young people so that they would become volunteers themselves in the future. Civil society and its role in building a society without prejudices was also supported.

Activities aimed at addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities

It involved the implementation of activities: Exhibition of children's drawings on the topic "What we did during the COVID-19 pandemic"; Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities - workshop; Solidarity with seniors. As part of these activities, we exchanged information and experience in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic in different countries. The discussion was important to know the needs and problems of the communities and above all the seniors, so that they do not feel discriminated by being pushed to the sidelines and not forgotten after the pandemic.

Activities aimed at preserving Europe's cultural heritage and developing intercultural dialogue

It involved the implementation of activities: Dinner and sitting with music; Traditions in partnership; Creativity in partnership; Musical performances by ensembles from partner municipalities; Social meeting; Holy Mass; Musical performances by partner bands. As part of these activities, we raised awareness of the richness of the cultural and linguistic environment of the partnership and Europe. Each nation presented itself with its cultural and linguistic identity, and this encouraged the overcoming of barriers between nations.