

**The project « Nasa spoločna Európska unia » 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 527 citizens, notably 85 participants from the city of Héreg (**Hungary**), 62 participants from the city of Imel (**Slovakia**), 43 participants from the organization Vyslízilci z Kyjova (**Czech Republic**), 23 participants from the organization Cisty pramen – Tiszta Forras n.f. (**Slovakia**), 63 participants from the city of Skopje (**Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**) and 251 participants from the city of Nyrovce (**Slovakia**).

**Location/ Dates:** The event took place in Nyrovce (**Slovakia**), from 04/08/2017 to 06/08/2017.

**Short description:**

The day of 04/08/2017 was dedicated to introduce the main aims of the project and presented the topics dealing to active participation of citizens by discussion and good practice presentation. During the first activity We change the cities together, we focused on shaping the attitudes of citizens to become active in their role. The activity introduced why is important to be active on local, regional and EU level. To support the activities of the citizens the good practices of local participation were shared and EU supporting tools were introduced (associations of citizens, local initiatives). During this first day of the event local representatives discussed about the initiatives of the citizens and civic associations which brought positive changes in regional development. Activity presented the cooperation of municipalities and citizens on local and regional changes, and the good examples when the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector in cooperation helps to solve civic and social problems. The first day of event was ended by presentation of national cultural heritage (food, costumes, dances...) of partners` countries.

The day of 05/08/2017 was dedicated to raise the level of information by discussions and workshop, to more involve citizens into topics of the event. The first activity of the day was aimed to introduce the principles of democracy of EU, and its pillars. Citizens became aware of the laws and the duties of EU citizen and got opportunity to discuss how are the principles of democracy applied in changing Europe (migration wave, radicalism) and how is important to keep them. The topic was presented by discussion and presentation. This activity was followed by movies presentation aimed on migration topic. The movies about migration wave, protection of human rights were introduced to citizens and thus the understanding to this topic raised. During next activity citizens had opportunity to contribute to the EU problems solving by reacting on actual EU problems. Thanks to this activity citizens had opportunity to think more globally about problems and to suggest the solutions for EU challenges. During the whole day there was information about active participation and EU tools for active participation presented. All the target groups had opportunity to get more information about EU institutions and tools for active participation. The last activity of the second day of the event, was presentation of history of partners` countries, gastro festival and cultural heritage presentation.

The day of 06/08/2017 was dedicated to volunteering activity, where citizens can get experience with voluntarism. The activity helped to develop the local community life and presented easy way of the environment changes and help for local organizations. Ending ceremony closed successful event: mayor of Nyrovce thanked to all citizens for active participation and informed them about the project of potential future cooperation of partners.

The project "Nasa spoločna Európska unia" introduced the cooperation of 6 partners from 4 countries. The main aim of the project was to introduce that each citizens can change its environment by active participation on local and EU level; participation can help in solving local challenges in the form of initiatives/projects. Besides that were developed the level of tolerance among countries, nations, mutual understanding in EU nations. Project supported citizens in gaining information about EU, initiatives, tools for citizens involvement; and gave them opportunity to get experience in voluntarism as one of the important values of citizenship and activation on EU level.

Thanks to diversity of the program all the target groups could be involved into activities, and were in touch, with EU topics for 3 days. During the event active partnership was strengthen and new ideas for future cooperation were brainstormed which brought new ideas for future cooperation.