

The project « Do partnerství / Into the Partnership » 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 570 citizens, notably 400 participants from the host city of Kostelec (**Czech Republic**), 80 participants from the city of Veľký Grob (**Slovakia**), 45 participants from the city of Gilowice (**Poland**) a 45 participants from the city of Lišane Ostrovičke (**Croatia**).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Kostelec (**Czech Republic**), from 05/02/2016 to 07/02/2016

Short description:

The day of 05/02/2016 was dedicated to connecting of the partner municipalities. Foreign guests arrived in Kostelec, where the project implementation started in the afternoon. There were representatives of 4 partner municipalities: Veľký Grob (Slovakia), Lišane Ostrovičke (Croatia) and Gilowice (Poland). The guests were welcomed ceremonially by the representatives of the home village (mayor and members of the self-government) and the headmaster of the local primary school Mgr. Dušan Kovář. The program opening was essentially presentation of the project, its program and partners. Parts of the opening of the project were also music and dance performances of primary school pupils. The pupils also rehearsed songs in the languages of the countries present. This way they highlighted the multiculturalism of the event. The opening continued with a vernissage of paintings, painted by children of the partner municipalities on the theme of "We are Europeans". The paintings reflected the view of children on the EU and at the same time they showed what they know about the EU. Part of the exhibition was also a show of photographs of the partner municipalities. Here the participants could get acquainted with the individual partner. The evening program continued at the local cellar, where members of ČZS Kostelec prepared a guided tasting of white and red wines of the local winemakers. It was a demonstration of traditional methods of wine production and skills of local inhabitants. The tasting was also an opportunity for informal familiarisation among the population.

The day of 06/02/2016 was dedicated to traditions. The program began at 9:00 a.m. when the volunteer firemen started the Shrovetide procession through the village accompanied by accordions, violins and international participants. The funny carnival parade passed through almost the entire village. During the morning the EU stall was also opened – an information place where participants were provided a variety of promotional materials about the EU. At the same time a professional worker discussed with the people present and provided expert information on the EU. In the afternoon a tour of the village was organized, focusing on its oldest monument – the Church of St. Wenceslas. Then a meeting with the representatives of countries took place on the topic of EU projects at the council hall. They discussed about EU assistance provided for the countries and about cooperation opportunities of municipalities and regions. The discussion was fruitful and provided new dimensions for the partnership. The afternoon program continued with the market of local traditional products prepared by Kostelec housewives. Local products were available for tasting, such as scones, rolls, donuts, wedding cakes, buns, pies and other cakes. The foreign guests also brought their samples of local specialties - pies, wedding cakes, cabbage pancakes from Slovakia and meat mixture with cabbage from Poland. In the evening the program belonged to international culture. The program was started by the folklore ensemble Kosteláci, followed by Netčičáci performing carnival dances. From the foreign visitors there was a performance of a Slovak choir and the Polish Gilowianka. The presentation of culture also comprised a show of domestic Kostelec festive and everyday costumes. Ballroom dances and waltz were also presented. The culmination of the evening program was the burying of the bass demonstrated by Kostelec folklorists and volunteers. At the same time there was an opportunity for making international friendships.

The day of 07/02/2016 was dedicated to confirming friendships, impressions and partnerships. In the morning a ceremonial Mass was held. The Mass was enriched by the participation of foreign guests. In the afternoon a meeting followed to taste the graces of God. Twelve species of God's grace was a beautiful show of the skill of local housewives. It was also a place for affirming friendships. At non-binding topics and conversations new interpersonal relationships were formed. Seniors met their peers from other countries and exchanged experience in issues of active aging. Within the last activity the mayor of the home village summarized the project and officially ended it. After saying good-bye the foreign guests departed to their homes.