



L'Europe pour
les citoyens

Európa pre
občanov

**Project “Plášťovce 2018 - The Place of European Solidarity and
Companionship” financed by the European Union – Europe for Citizens
Programme**

Valid for Strand 2 Measure 2.1 "Town Twinning (TT)"

Participation: the project facilitated a meeting of 429 citizens, from which 300 came from Plášťovce (Slovak Republic), 9 from Kose (Estonia), 8 from Ócsa (Hungary), 25 from Lueta (Romania), 32 from Domaszék (Hungary), 29 from Kétybodony (Hungary), and 34 from Loučka (Czech Republic).

Place and date: meeting took place in Plášťovce, Slovak Republic from 21/06/2018 to 23/06/2018

Short description:

On 21 June, 2018, the mayor of Plášťovce officially welcomed the participants of the event, presented the main idea of the project, the partners and their role in the project, the historical background and the idea behind the cooperation. He informed the participants about the survey, which will be completed throughout the whole event, aiming to assure the level of knowledge of citizens about human rights and values of the European Union. During the evening, a discussion between the event's partners was held, focusing on topics related to improving the cooperation and the participation of young people and all of the citizens in local social life, promoting the idea of united Europe. The participants of the meeting focused on the importance of collaborating in joint projects and the important role of partner's representatives in active cooperation at international, national, regional and local levels. The partnership of towns and cities has been presented as a way of actively promoting EU principles. In the evening, a cultural events were held, accompanied by a presentation of folk groups from the participating countries.

On 22 June, 2018, a discussion was held in the morning by the Civic Association Peace and Good – help the refugees (Pokoj a dobro – pomoc utečencom). Participants had the opportunity to discuss issues of human rights in the case of refugees, differences between opinions locally and abroad, the situation of refugees in Slovakia, and whether we are able to defend European values and interests in this situation. The debate has been enriched with activities to eliminate prejudices and increase the acceptance of cultural differences. During the afternoon, a presentation of the EU's migration policy (management and control tools, future common visa policies, VIS, AENEAS, the Dublin Regulation, the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum, the readmission agreements) and discussions on EU security in relation to increasing the number of refugees, solving problems of minorities of local populations. The debate was leaded with active participation of doc. Mgr. František Škvrnd, CSc. from the Faculty of International Relations, University of Economics in Bratislava. During the evening cultural events was a drawing competition for children's and youth's art works on "My neighbour is different from me", watching and discussing short documentary films: Tears and Hope in Iraq (Slzy a nádej v Iraku), Iraq / Anton Frič, exhibition of photographs on help without borders, music concert, from which income will be donated to children of refugees living in the Slovak Republic.

On 23 June, 2018, the participants of the event focused on presentation of customs, traditions, formal and informal discussions, and presentation of the cultural heritage. A concert of Hope was held for the participants, then laying a wreath to remember the fallen of First and Second World War. During the day a final conference was held to assess the project, presenting the results of the survey and issues addressed during the events - EU migration policy, active citizenship in Europe, the EU's democratic values – solidarity, EU citizens' rights, EU policy making and the opportunities to raise awareness of people with space for public discussion and the opportunity to hear representatives of local and regional government and partners in order to understand the purpose and importance of these events and meetings.

Throughout the event, participants were provided with EU information desk related to volunteer programmes, opportunities for youth in the EU, publications about the problems of EU and migration policy, and other possibilities to be an active European citizen.

Participants as well as the public had been presented an overview of the possibilities of participating in volunteer programmes in the EU, sources of information about them and forms of engagement. At the same time, they learned about printed publications dedicated to EU. Additionally, various tools were presented how to enforce citizen rights and using EU policies for their benefit in everyday life at local level.