

The project «Days of Europe, friendship and tolerance» 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 990 citizens, notably 800 participants from the city of **Ács (Hungary)**, 40 participants from the city of Bradut (**Romania**), 50 participants from the city of Kolárovo (**Slovakia**), 40 participants from the city of Zlatna na Ostrove (**Slovakia**), 20 participants from the city of Bois-Bernard (**France**), 40 participants from the city of Steinau an der Strasse (**Germany**).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in **Ács, Hungary**, from 18/08/2017 to 20/08/2017.

Short description:

18th Aug. 2017

They were welcomed in the Zichy Palace's Hall in the morning, a short project meeting took place, we described their further tasks and provided them with useful information on the implementation. In the afternoon, we placed the wheat together in a festive setting, which could be visited by all of the visitors. This was transferred to the Castel Garden later where we poured the crop together, to illustrate the fraternity of the participating groups. Béla Lakatos, the mayor of our settlement held a festive speech on this occasion and then local Professor Mr. László Korinek as well. This was followed by a more thorough public presentation of the foreigners as well. The activity was closed by a cultural program where the present cultural groups presented their own cultures and traditions. A good mood was further enhanced by the dance house, where anyone could join and have fun, regardless of their nationality and place of origin. The accompanying program focused on current issues such as the future of the Union, refugee prejudices and biases and insights into their integration. During the evening barbecue, informal conversations and contacts took place.

19th Aug. 2017

We started the day with a charity action: the local Bakancsos Klub organized cooking. Meanwhile, there was an opportunity to visit the once-strict border guard-protected settlements (Komárom - HU and Komárno - SK). No letter of invitation or passport was required to cross the border of course. We also offered joining possibility for the little ones in the Castel Garden as well and young people could measure their skills in more individual and team sports. We revived not only the events of 1956 (since it directly affected our settlement too) during the historical program, but migration was again discussed and we tried to look for parallels between the leaving of home for political reasons in that time and the present war situation in the Middle East. The joint bowling allowed active relaxation, followed by nationalistic cultural productions. In the evening we had a lot of fun with our guests, during which the hits and the most popular music of the past were played, which also provided a special atmosphere. During the day, information materials were available by favour of the Europe Direct and European themes were in focus again. The representatives from each country discussed issues such as the breaking away of Great Britain from the EU, the easier way of employment and displacement since the accession of Schengen. The non-profit organizations have also introduced themselves (Messzelátó Association, Retirement Clubs, Traditionalists, Bakancsos Klub, etc.).

20th Aug. 2017

We made the practice of religion possible in the morning and at the occasion of 20th of August we wreathed the St. Stephen's memorial as well. We remembered the event of great cultural and European significance, the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and we placed a memorial plaque on the wall of the Reformed Church. Subsequently we evoked the twin city meetings that had been implemented earlier, which was done by photo presentation and revival of shared experiences. New, common plans were outlined that would like to be realized by the partnership in the near future. After passing the farewell gifts, a concert full of feeling closed the event, after which the groups said goodbye to each other and set off on their way home.