

## **We are Europeans**

5-7 July 2013, Svodín

The methodology of the project is based on the organisation of a three days' festival, in which representatives of four nations and four municipalities – Svodín, Tata, Pinczow and Bystrice participate. While the first two days we devoted to connecting of the inhabitants, the third day was the culmination of the project. The project was actively involve all participants into sport, cultural, social, educational and competitive activities. These activities could be divided into active ones, where active participation is required, and passive ones requiring presence in the form of spectators.

The main organizer of the event was the municipality of Svodín, taking the biggest responsibility. The other partner municipalities helped Svodín and in the form of intensive, mainly email communication they searched for the best solutions and alternatives, so that the project fulfils its aims. There were no communication barriers, since Slovak, Czech and Polish belong to the Slavonic language family and are similar and the inhabitants of Svodín also speak fluent Hungarian. The project fully corresponded with the priorities of the Programme. The program of the project divided into three days and is the result of mutual discussions and negotiations of all four partners.

The programs were held according to the plans, the project fulfilled its goal.

The expected impact of the project on the target groups is given by the project intention itself – transformation of the self-governments' partnership into the partnership of citizens. The project devotes itself intensively to the issue of European citizenship. Elements like art, culture, gastronomy and education was the contents of the project, they really presented and at the same time they sourced of the project impacts. The impacts are primarily affected the participants of the event; the rest of the inhabitants was affected secondarily.

The most important impact of the project was raising the position of ordinary citizens in the frame of the partnership. Through its transformation into a partnership of citizens the involvement of citizens into the realization of the partnership is achieved. While till now they were only recipients, now they were initiators within the partnership.

The children were included in the project from the beginning. In the frame of the individual activities they were familiarize with peers from the partner municipalities, they played traditional games, learned about the culture of the past century and about the traditions of four nations. In the frame of the lectures and workshops they got information of the EU.

For adults the event was important from the point of view of making friends with citizens of other states. This is further developed in the frame of citizens' initiative at the fulfilment of the message of the project and at initiating similar events.

For seniors the event had an enormous significance in three aspects. The first is their active participation in the project activities, by which barriers between generations was eliminated. Providing them opportunities for participation in the project means that they can join ordinary social life again. At the same time they got the chance to learn something new about the EU and its functioning. The second is the use of their knowledge and experience in the frame of the activities. The seniors presented the culture of the past and long forgotten traditions as well. The third is their use as subject of speculation of present life, when they become the themes for photos and fine art works.

Culture, sport, art and education are fields which help us make friends and develop relations, which is the most important impact of the project.

The team, which worked on the implementation of the project, was skilled and had a good experience in the past, therefore hardly any difficulty came up during the project fulfillment.

The plans for the future organisations are to invite more families from all the municipalities to make new friendships, experience each others culture, tradition, sport and the European citizenship.

The project can be called “best practice”, but let s be modest to organize better one next year according to our possibilities. We would like to cooperate in other themes, open discussions about the same problems of municipalities, about teenagers problems and their solutions. If it would be possible, we would like to make new relation with other regions of the resident population- economical connection, historical connection to reveal the past and familliarize with it.

The first day was the day of welcome. Its activities will presentated EU and EY 2012 and 2013. The photo-competition and the vernissage bring the issue of seniors closer from artistic view. In the frame of the lecture Europe and the EU presented from the point of view of different professions. The workshop focused on citizenship – rights, opportunities and civil participation. The day of 05/07/2013 was dedicated to:

16.00 Ceremonial opening of the event, mayors´ speeches, introduction of the program

16.30 Announcement of the photo-competition on the topic of “Seniors among Us“ – taking photographs of seniors

17.00 Vernissage of the photos on the topic of “Sociophoto”

17:30 Lecture “Colourful Europe“

18.40 We Are Europeans – workshop devoted to the European citizenship and civil participation

20.00 Folklore music evening in village hall, gastronomy.

The second day is devoted to cultural and sport activities. Info-stall offers complex information of the EU. The participants had the chance to improve their knowledge. The sport activities help rise the sporty spirit of fair play and help closer familiarising between participants. The negotiation brought a new future for the partnership. The meaning of these activities is elimination of communication barriers and transformation of the partnership into the partnership of citizens. The day of 06/07/2013 was dedicated to:

10.00 Info stall of the EU – information about the EU, presentation materials

10.30 Svodin Cup – amateur football tournament – amateur teams consisting of the participants of the partner municipalities

11.00 Arrival of bicyclists from the partner municipalities (Tata – HU) – welcome

11.30 Track-cycling show of Slovak champions-professionals.

The activities of the second part of the day focused on gastronomy, games and culture from the beginning of the 20th century. In the frame of gastronomy the seniors presented the traditional cuisine. Besides cooking and tasting meals, there were collectioned of traditional recipes. Traditions were part of the children´s games, in the frame of which children from the partner towns competed. The end of the day was devoted to culture as a phenomenon uniting nations and generations.

14.00 Presentation of the best photographs of the photo-competition “Seniors among Us“

14.00 Sight-seeing tour of the village by mini-train

14.30 Traditional meals from partners – presentation of traditional meals of the partner municipalities

15.00 European games – traditional children´s plays

17.00 Central European Cultural Afternoon – songs and dances since 1920 up to the present – performances of ensembles from the partner towns

18.00 Round table – negotiation of the municipality representatives about the integration of the partnership into European regional structures

21.30 Rustic entertainment – concerts, disco.

The third day directs attention towards issues connected with the European years 2012 and 2013 again. Through the presentation of the results of the photo competition the participants get to know with new visions of seniors with the help of modern technique (connection of the old with the modern). The discussion points out the need of involving citizens in public issues and maintenance of one's living environment in all partner municipalities. The last activities focused on connecting citizens through gastronomy. This is the fourth uniting element (art, culture, sport, gastronomy). At the end of the event the friendships between the participants confirmed. The partnership gets a new dimension – partnership of citizens and the common future of European citizens becomes reality.

10.30 Ceremonial holy mass in the church of Virgin Mary's Ascension

12.00 Ceremonial lunch

14.00 Presentation of the best photographs of the photo-competition "Seniors among Us", preparation of collages for the partners

15.00 Discussion on the topic of "Active Citizen for the European Village" devoted to ecology, better natural environment, how can inhabitants contribute through their activities to the enhancement of their environment

17.00 Gastronomy connects people

18.00 End of the event, departure of guests.