

**The project « We Unite the People of Europe » 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 1700 citizens, notably 1500 participants from the town of Letovice (**Czech Republic**), 40 participants from the town of Veľké Vozokany (**Slovakia**), 40 participants from the town of Stari Grad (**Croatia**), 40 participants from the town of Kirchlinteln (**Germany**), 40 participants from the town of Chelmno (**Poland**) and 40 participants from the capital city of Budapest district no. X Kőbánya (**Hungary**).

**Location/ Dates:** The event took place in Letovice (**Czech Republic**), from 25/09/2015 to 27/09/2015

**Short description:**

The day of 25/09/2015 was dedicated to making new friendships. The guests came to the place of destination in the morning, respectively the previous evening. After their accommodation a sightseeing program connected with a tour of the town of Letovice and the surrounding area was prepared for them. The foreign guests visited various sites and monuments (e.g. church, monastery, castle, watchtower, sensory garden). Right in the beginning they had the opportunity to get to know the home country and especially the home town. The event was ceremonially opened at 16:00 in the castle of Letovice. The present guests were greeted and welcomed by the mayor. At the same time he introduced the program for the next days. During this initial activity home citizens and guests handed over various promotional and gift items to each other that were stored in a symbolic container of the partnership. It was a symbolic uniting of nations right at the outset of the event. Other activities were aimed at uniting through music. The creative musical workshops were a place for practicing the common song, for the exchange of experience between brass bands from different countries, for mutual acquaintance. The linguistic night at the castle was also marked by similar spirit, where in a good mood the guests from different parts of Europe debated and were discovering besides the universal English other languages of the represented nations as well. Between the creative musical workshops and the linguistic evening an interactive presentation of the EU was held, within which basic principles of the EU, its history, institutions and important policies were presented. The presentation was completed by a debate on current problems and needs of the communities. In the evening, a concert of choirs was held, too. This activity was a confirmation of the right tuning in to uniting through culture.

The day of 26/09/2015 was dedicated to issues relating to European citizenship and multiculturalism in Europe. In the morning there were presentations by local volunteers. They pointed out their work and the need to help others, especially disabled people. It was followed by workshops with the overtones of culture and traditions. The interested spent pleasant and useful moments here. In the afternoon a panel discussion should have taken place with a member of the EP for the Czech Republic on the issue of low participation of people in elections to the EP. A few days before the event, however, he excused himself not being able to come to the discussion and we were unable to get substitution for him so quickly. Therefore a discussion on the given subject took place among young participants. The discussion between citizens and municipal representatives was devoted to the theme of the EU and especially European citizenship and democracy. The need for closer cooperation, for participation of citizens in public affairs was discussed, as well as the need for joint action in addressing international needs of the partners. In the frame of the activity a new partnership agreement between the home town Letovice and the Budapest district no. X. of Kőbánya was ceremonially signed, too. It was a formal acknowledgment of several years of partnership. The late afternoon belonged to culture and artists from the partner municipalities. Pupils from the home art school of Letovice, the Tutta forza brass band from Hungary, Vozokanka brass band from Slovakia, brass band Stari Grad from Croatia performed. They showcased their traditional national culture and also the common song that had been rehearsed together. The evening belonged to entertainment and bringing together people from different parts of Europe.

The day of 27/09/2015 was dedicated to reinforcing friendships and summarizing the project. The morning was enriched by the continuation of the cultural program at the Masaryk Square. The culture of partners, especially brass music was introduced to the general public. It was an unusual performance for the locals. The afternoon included the photo exhibition at the castle on the issue of Europe's citizen, which was prepared and installed in advance. Its purpose was to draw attention to current events. The event ended with a common project summary, saying good-bye to the guests and expressing the wish to meet again jointly in the future.