

**The project « Spoznávajme sa navzájom /Lernen wir uns gegenseitig kennen » 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 brought together 834 people, of which 700 came from the local municipality Selice (Slovakia), 67 from Ács (Hungary), 67 from Halászi Sportegyesület (Halászi - Hungary)

**Location/ Dates:** the meeting was held in SELICE (Slovakia) from 11/09/2015 to 13/09/2015

**Short description:**

On 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015 the participants of the meeting focused their attention on the festive welcome of partners and discussing their cooperation so far.

The morning focused on the ceremonial welcome of partners featuring performances by local children from the kindergarten and primary school. At the joint sitting of representatives their cooperation so far was discussed. By the excursion through the village a relaxed atmosphere among the participants of the event from all partner municipalities was established. New friendships were created and old ones strengthened. The program also included commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the breakout of the First World War by laying commemorative wreaths in honor of the memory of fallen soldiers. The afternoon was devoted not only to the exhibition of children's works and sports activities but to EU issues as well, in the form of raising awareness of the EU, discussions from the perspective of local self- governments in the form of perception of the EU. Through the topics proposals were discussed concerning more active involvement in EU activities.

The musical evening created a friendly relaxed atmosphere. Space was created for free discussions among the participants of the partner communities in the spirit of traditions and European themes. Ties strengthened not only between self-governments but also participants from the partner municipalities. At the joint sitting of representatives their cooperation so far and their perception of the EU as a whole were discussed. Under the guidance of instructors from the past through the present their knowledge and views on the EU were uncovered. Through debates space was created for proposals in the frame of a more active involvement in activities of European character and building a better future not only for us but also for future generations. The evening was reserved for music and dancing in which space was created for reinforcing friendships and for free conversations.

On 12<sup>th</sup> September 2015 the participants of the meeting focused attention on folk customs, songs, dances and traditions

Throughout the second day a program in the spirit of folk crafts and traditions was prepared for the participants, through which folk groups of both partner communities presented themselves. During the whole day a folk crafts market was available during which traditional crafts passed on from generation to generation were presented, represented by the partner municipalities. They indirectly pointed out their pride of the importance of presentation and dissemination of customs and traditions from generation to generation. Through music and dance this beautiful experience strengthened in the form of a day-long possibility of visiting the folk crafts market. Through workshops room was made for one's own creativity under the guidance of experienced craftsmen. At the exhibition we learned about traditional clothes or working tools that had been used by our ancestors once upon a time.

For children a special space was created in the form of plentiful activities, both sports competitions and creative games. Through sport, creativity and relaxation they strengthened old friendships and established new ones among the smallest generation, regardless of nationality, where they could present their skills and abilities. For the youngest a creative nook was prepared in the form of skills development, creativity and playfulness.

The afternoon program was devoted to the issue of EU information, beginning with the development of basic information on the history and diversity of the EU through increasing knowledge about European citizenship and the rights and obligations of citizens up to the acquisition of information about the European Parliament. We raised a feeling of proud Europeans in each participating citizen. Through professional lectures they were lead into the world of familiarity of the advantages of European citizenship. By presentations of individual involvement and commitment of individual member states in the European elections the horizons concerning European elections and the understanding of the principles of the European Parliament widened.

The evening was devoted to music in the form of performances of folk groups in the context of presenting the partner nations. During the evening different age groups of the individual municipalities presented, thanks to which a natural will of having fun was created in each participant. New friendly relations were established between the participants.

On 13<sup>th</sup> September 2015 the participants of the meeting focused attention on addressing the importance of volunteering and thinking about the future of the EU.

The morning of the last day was devoted mainly to European themes. During the debates on the future in the scope of the EU the individual participants reflected on the importance of involvement in public affairs. Also, through the activity designed for children and youth they got familiar with European EU member states playfully. Space was dedicated to the presentation of the partner municipality in the form of an interesting sport performance.

The afternoon was devoted to sport activities full of fun and competition through which a friendly atmosphere among the participants of the partner municipalities was created. We devoted ourselves to physical activities in the form of sports competitions that served to relieve the knowledge-based activities. Through the activities mutual partnerships were consolidated and stronger bonds between participants of different ages and nationalities were created.

Activities were also devoted to issues of volunteerism that need to be disseminated among the participants of the event. It is important to make them feel the necessity of participating in a more active way of life within society. Their horizons within the scope of volunteering needed to be broadened.

The evening program was devoted to strengthening mutual cooperation, friendly relations and creating memorabilia of the three-day event. The signing of the unique partnership contract has sealed a new dimension of the partnerships.