

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)

 Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum.)

PROJECT	
Participant:	JUDr. Henrieta Selmecziová, Municipality of Neded
PIC Number:	889666541
Project name and acronym:	THE DIVERSITY OF EUROPE Project acronym: The Diversity

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	1
Event name:	THE DIVERSITY OF EUROPE
Type:	A three-day international event
In situ/online:	<i>In situ</i>
Location:	Country: Slovakia, City: Neded
Date(s):	16.08.2024-18.08.2024
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.neded.sk/obecny-urad/projekty/the-diversity-of-europe-370sk.html
Participants	
Female:	300
Male:	300
Non-binary:	0
From country Slovakia, Neded	340 participants
From country Hungary, Bóly Város Önkormányzata	50 participants
From country Hungary, Törökbálint Város Önkormányzata	51 participants
From country Romania, Comuna Cernat	9 participants
From country Slovakia, Vlčany	150 participants
Total number of participants:	600 participants
From total number of countries:	3
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	

We created the concept of the project in such a way that it would help connect European nations with each other and at the same time connect citizens of all age groups with the EU. In order to connect our nations, it was important to eliminate prejudices, i.e. those associated with different cultures, traditions, and languages. The project connected nations, therefore its aim was to understand the differences between these nations and at the same time highlight unity in diversity.

The aim of the project was in full cohesion with the objective of the call for proposals, namely to promote exchanges between citizens in different countries, in particular through town twinning, so that they could experience the richness and diversity of the Union's shared heritage in practice and realise that it forms the basis of a common future. The event was designed to bring together a wide range of people from partner municipalities, from different socio-economic backgrounds, genders and different countries. We designed the event themes to stimulate public interest at local and EU level. We promoted mutual understanding, inclusion and cultural diversity and developed opportunities for civic engagement at EU level.

Specific goals of the project were as follows:

- to provide citizens with practical experience about the richness and diversity of mutual heritage of the Union and to inform them that they are those who form the basis for the common future
- to foster peaceful relations among Europeans
- to strengthen mutual understanding and friendship among European citizens
- to support cooperation among municipalities
- to strengthen the position of local and regional bodies

The project was a three-day event. The event focused on citizens, took a bottom-up approach and gave Europeans a floor to express their expectations of the European Union. By specifying activities focused on education and training, discussions and open debates, it gave citizens a greater say in shaping future policies and the Union's goals, thereby increasing its strength. Citizens' participation showcased the diversity of Europe.

Our aim was to encourage optimal cooperation with all countries and to contribute to the democratic development of all parts of Europe. Together, we contributed to building a European security architecture based on effective, functionally complementary and mutually reinforcing cooperation and coordination within the existing European institutions. In order to maintain and promote cultural cohesion, the event intensified the mutual transfer of values in the fields of culture, education, science and information exchange.

All activities implemented within the project were aimed at strengthening economic, political, and social stability in the European region. The partners saw their mutual cooperation as a challenge for themselves and its success as the best proof of their ability to integrate into structures such as the EU as good as possible.

Our project was in full cohesion with the call as it brought together a wide range of people from partner municipalities of different socio-economic backgrounds, genders, and countries. We took into account the gender equality perspective at each of the project phases and fully supported the provision of opportunities and equal conditions in activities for women and men, girls and boys.

The event produced space for dialogue among participants. It brought about several important impacts on the target groups. The impacts also affected the general public.

The impacts were as follows:

Development of European citizenship - The attending citizens of the partner municipalities were introduced to citizenship from a theoretical perspective - they received information about what citizenship is, what its goals are, its benefits and, above all, what rights it provides.

Activation of citizens – Individual activities, especially presentations, workshops and discussions, ensured that citizens actively participated in them. This not only provided them with new and interesting information, but by participating in the discussions they were also able to present their own opinions.

Learning about the EU – The project presented information about the EU. Citizens gained a basic overview of the EU, how it works, and its benefits.

Support for cultural heritage – The impact was filled with the presentation of various cultural elements of individual nations. It was folklore, music, crafts, or the life of ancestors. This

showed them that we have a beautiful cultural heritage - which is in many areas listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. At the same time, it was possible to ensure its preservation for future generations. It was an impact with a long-term effect, as it contributed to the preservation of cultural heritage for the future.

Youth support – The project introduced the online platform "Voice your Vision" and organized dialogues between knowledgeable experts, adult participants and youth, who thus received a feeling of full engagement and, most importantly, the feeling that they were heard.

Volunteering – The activity introduced the functioning of non-profit organisations.

Solidarity – The event raised awareness of the importance of strengthening the European integration process based on solidarity and common values.

Perspective of gender equality and non-discrimination – Gender equality was present in active (discussants, direct participants) as well as passive (audience, listeners) way.

DATE: 16-17 -18 /8/ 2024

Friday

14:00 Ceremonial opening of the event - welcoming of partners

15:00 Introduction to the event - presentation of the project concept and its goals

16:30 European citizens' initiative – support of the initiative in the form of collecting valid signatures

18:00 The role of EU cohesion policy in post-pandemic recovery - cohesion policy as a crisis response tool

20:00 Evening of familiarisation – rustic entertainment with music and dance

Saturday

09:00 Opening of EU info stall - provision of information in the form of promotional materials

10:00 Visions worth following - children's imaginations of the future of the EU

12:00 Common lunch

13:30 Presentation of cultural heritage - Cultural program

15:00 Presentation of projects implemented by municipalities from EU subsidy structures - best practice

17:00 Pro-European values - goals and values of the EU on which it is based - discussions

18:00 Active aging - the EU's contribution to active aging and solidarity between generations

20:00 Social evening with music

Sunday

09:30 Let's think ahead - elimination of household waste production - workshop

11:00 Social Europe - steps taken to eliminate social exclusion and poverty in society

12:00 Presentation of strategic documents and initiatives - "New European Bauhaus Initiative", "EIGE-European Institute for Gender Equality", EU Strategy in the field of children's rights, "Voice your Vision"...

13:30 Europe of the youth – presentation of EU policies aimed at youth

15:00 Visions about the direction of the partnership - brainstorming

17:00 Closing ceremony of the event

HISTORY OF CHANGES

VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).