

**The project «Express your Europe! - Days of diversity 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 530 citizens, notably 350 participants from Janíky (**Slovakia**), 60 participants from Mutěnice (**Czech Republic**), 80 participants from Farád (**Hungary**), 10 participants from Lendava (**Slovenia**), 20 participants from the Association of Volunteer Firefighters of Totovo Selo (**Serbia**), 10 participants from Tormafölde (**Hungary**).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in **Janíky, Slovakia**, from 23/08/2019 to 25/08/2019.

Short description:

Friday, 23. August

The foreign partners arrived until the afternoon hours and the official opening of the event took place at 17.00. This was followed by the introductions, during which the partners were represented themselves by the project presentations. This was followed by a public discussion of an interesting, controversial topic - social disengagement and extremism become in the focus of attention. Tibor Tóth talked about these phenomena with Peter Hunčík. A team, called Reset, featured in the rest of the evening, which provided a good atmosphere and the guests enjoyed their music together.

Saturday, 24. August

Most of the programs took place on the soccer field of the town. It was possible to take part in the various activities from 10 o'clock already the five-a-side football tournament and the playful children's and family activities were popular. Volunteering also gained ground and the local volunteer firefighters gave a spectacular presentation. Many joined the cooking competition, during which the teams prepared typical dishes of the represented countries. The Europe Direct from Komarno also took part in the program and Zuzana Szabóová produced many games and information material, which also served as a good basis for discussions about the EU. Zuzana and her colleague also helped to shape the mind map - gathering the associations that awaken in citizens through hearing one of the expressions (mother tongue, Hungarian, Slovak, minority, Europe, etc.). Individuals, families and teams were involved in these activities as well and many questions were raised about EU affairs.

Health protection also gained ground and advice was provided by the Red Cross on several topics. Many have their blood glucose and blood pressure measured.

The award ceremony was to come later - the best sports and cooking teams received gifts.

The cultural program began in the afternoon, in which the foreign performers was given highlighted role as well. Settlements Farad and Mutěnice presented themselves with a longer show the pensioner dance group of Lehnice and a local choir introduced themselves from the region. These programs had a folk traditionalist character, along with them, contemporary music and dance productions - featuring Attila Mezei, MT Family, György Derzsi, Kati Kollár and many others were given space as well. The concerts and entertainment lasted until midnight, with a diverse program in which, everyone could find their favourite.

Sunday, 25. August

Thematic talks were held that day. One of the central topics was multilingualism. The participants analyzed the benefits of speaking multiple languages and the areas of life in which this knowledge helps, together with the guests. The European Charter for Regional Languages was introduced now, which aims to protect the smaller languages. The next discussion covered the topic of environmental protection, those were present, dealt especially with water protection. The issue of the protection of drinking water under the Žitný ostrov was mentioned here, which has been exposed to several dangers recently. Several non-governmental organizations protested against this and these processes were learned during the activity.

The guests were able to view those parts of the settlement after lunch that they had not yet reached (e.g.: Star Castle) and after a short gift-giving and farewell, everyone headed home.