

The project « Europe is cool » 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 327 citizens, notably 25 participants from the city of Zagreb (**Croatia**), 30 participants from the city of Sremski Karlovci (**Serbia**), 20 participants from the city of Banja Luka (**Bosnia and Herzegovina**), 26 participants from the city of Bihac (**Bosnia and Herzegovina**), 25 participants from the city of Herceg Novi (**Montenegro**), 24 participants from the city of Kavadarci (**Norther Macedonia**), 24 participants from the city of Soriano Nel Cimino (**Italy**), 21 participants from the city of Canepina (**Italy**) and 132 participants from the city of Novo mesto (**Slovenia**).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in (**Novo Mesto, Slovenia**), from 12/06/2019 to 15/06/2019

Short description:

Project managed by Drustvo za razvijanje prostovoljnega dela Novo mesto gathered over 300 citizens from 3 EU and 4 non-EU (accession) countries (Slovenia, Italy, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, FYRM and Serbia), that participated in 2 main Project activities. Indirectly the project reached 20.000 participants starting with the information campaign "We are Europeans" as the first activity, organized with aim to bring EU policies and institutions closer to citizens. Campaign was shaped as international contest in a form of quiz about EU policies and institutions taking place simultaneously, in 7 countries. Second activity was 4 days International Conference "Europe is cool" in Slovenia, which supported and promoted European core values, EU policies and shape partners' cooperation. The whole event gathered more than 2000 citizens.

The day of 12/06/2019 was dedicated to Multiculturalism as an active citizenship coordinated by dr. Marina Luksic Hacin, Slovenian Migration Institute (SMI) at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU). The partners further participated at Intercultural evening visiting Week of Cultures festival – African stories.

The day of 13/06/2019 was dedicated to equal opportunities for all and EU policy about migrants with discussion and field visit of some institutions with good practice in Ljubljana. Slovene Philanthropy, Ljubljana – field visit - EU Policy and migrants, Slovenian Migration Institute (SMI) at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Ljubljana; presentation of projects, Migrants as opportunities for local development, ... dr. Jure Gombac and Asja Pehar Senekovic, Visit to Social entrepreneurs with migrant background, ... In the evening Migrant film festival was organised- Documentary films by some partners were shown.

The day of 14/06/2019 was dedicated to solidarity as EU core value and EU Solidarity Corps. EU and migrants integrations were discussed. The Conference was opened by Slovenian MEP Milan Brglez, who presented work, roles and key importance of EP for EU. Solidarity as fundamental EU value and the role of EU Parliament. Next we honored European Year of cultural heritage 2018 and inter-cultural dialogue about modern European culture was raised with the lecture and workshops about Cultural heritage preservation and its importance for the future of EU by dr. Verena Vidrih Perko (Regional Museum Kranj, University of Ljubljana). Presentation and visit of Novo mesto Cultural heritage preservation site – Novo mesto main square renovation followed, lectured and coordinated by dr. Tomaz Slak (Faculty of Architecture, University of Ljubljana)

In the afternoon The international Fair of Cultures and Culinary in Novo mesto was organised – presentation organisational, cultural, culinarical, folclore, musical...) of all the project partners, Slovenian artists and literates and visited by more than 2000 citizens. Another round table was organized for municipal administrations officials to discuss modus operandi for mutual cooperation/networking

The day of 15/06/2019 was dedicated to future cooperation and evaluation. Citizens shared experiences on citizens' mobilization and participation and they worked on new formats for regional cooperation. List of topics for common development projects was analyzed in terms of advantages and disadvantages and shortlisted. Evaluation and signing the agreement of further cooperation.