

## The project « Discover Europe 4.0 » 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 640 citizens, notably 500 participants from the city of Nitrianske Hrnčiarovce (**Slovakia**), 30 participants from the city of Hrnčiarovce nad Parnou (**Slovakia**), 35 participants from the city of Kőszeg (**Hungary**), 35 participants from the city of Balatonalmádi (**Hungary**), 20 participants from the city of Mödling (**Austria**) and 20 participants from the city of Eggenfelden (**Germany**).

**Location/ Dates:** The event took place in Nitrianske Hrnčiarovce (**Slovakia**), from 02/09/2017 to 03/09/2017

#### Short description:

The day of 02/09/2017 was dedicated to getting to know traditions. The home and the guest participants familiarised with folklore, folk costumes, crafts and even the traditions connected with grape harvest. The day began with the ceremonial opening and welcome of the guests. In addition to the formal speeches, folklore had its unmistakable place, too. Part of the opening was the Europe Direct information booth as well. Within it, citizens were provided with information about the EU and printed brochures and promotional materials concerning the EU, European policies or the future. Entertainment program in the nature was prepared for children. As they walked through the educational walkway, they searched for indications that were then linked to slogans associated with the EU. The compiled passwords were e.g. The EU is an organization associating 28 states; The EU institutions comprise the EU Council, the European Parliament, the European Commission; The EU is based in Brussels and so on. A folklore procession took place at noon. The home participants presented their folk costumes directly from the village, and also from the surrounding area. Folk costumes typical for the partners were also presented. The show was accompanied by procession of the village. The afternoon was devoted to an important meeting of mayors and citizens. First of all, matters of the future of partnership and citizens' involvement were discussed. Secondly, realized projects co-funded by the EU were presented, which were implemented by one of the partners. Here the participants had the opportunity to learn about the benefits of the EU. The afternoon belonged to traditions. Traditions in grape harvesting, wine making and traditional crafts were introduced. This has inspired participants to learn about life in the past. Presentation of traditions was also supported by folklore performances of groups from the partner municipalities and towns. In the evening, a film about migration was screened in the cultural house. Its role was to draw attention to the fact that migration to the EU has been a common phenomenon (only in smaller numbers of people than it has been since 2015) and that migrants fleeing war and conflict need to be helped. The film screening was followed by a discussion. After the discussion, the foreign participants moved to the library, where they got to know the Slovak language from books, games and colouring books in an entertaining way. The evening was about bonding people during the rustic entertainment.

The day of 03/09/2017 was dedicated to the European Union. Both domestic and foreign guests had the opportunity to get to know the EU and "discover it". The day began by visiting vineyards associated with wine tasting. Foreign guests had the opportunity to discover the countryside, vineyard traditions, wineries, but also the mastery of domestic wine makers. In the afternoon, the program continued right in the village. The Europe Direct information stall was reopened with promotional materials about the EU. Young participants had the opportunity to get to know the EU and the volunteer initiatives of the European Commission – the European Solidarity Corps. This has led to the motivation of young people towards helping others, to do volunteer activities. At the same time, they got to know the European Commission's latest initiative and the possibilities of engaging with it. Discover Europe was another activity devoted to the EU. In the form of photographs the EU was presented (European Institutions), but also the current migration crisis (how people live in the asylum camps). As a result, the current issues and the need to address them have been re-focused. In the afternoon, folklore groups from the region around Nitrianske Hrnčiarovce presented to the audience - from the Podzobor region. These were examples of traditional regional folklore, culture, but also the culture of the Hungarian minority. Shows of the traditional gastronomy, which presented another part of the traditions, were a farewell to the guests. The event ended with final speeches.