

## The project « Objav Európu 3.0 » 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 town of Nitrianske Hrnčiarovce (**Slovakia**), 35 participants from the city of Kőszeg (**Hungary**), 35 participants from the city of Balatonalmádi (**Hungary**), 20 participants from the city of Eggenfelden (**Germany**), 20 participants from the city of Mödling (**Austria**), 30 participants from the city of Hrnčiarovce nad Parnou (**Slovakia**).

**Location/ Dates:** The event took place in Nitrianske Hrnčiarovce (**Slovakia**), from 03/09/2016 to 04/09/2016

#### Short description:

The day of 03/09/2016 was dedicated to linking topical issues troubling Europe and issues related to the past and traditions. The opening ceremony took place before midday, which was accompanied by folk groups and the speech of the mayor of the home municipality. At the same time an information stall dedicated to the European Union was also open. Here information on the EU was provided in the form of printed brochures and other promotional materials. The aim was to raise awareness of the EU also in the context of the Slovak Presidency of the EU Council. The exhibition of artists was dedicated to current problems. Specifically, it was the theme of migration and the view of artists on this issue. This was followed by a common debate, was devoted to the topic of migration along with the themes of solidarity between nations and the increasing euro-scepticism. Citizens discussed these issues and searched intersections of opinion between old and new member states. The afternoon was dedicated to culture and traditions. The exhibition of period costumes and tools, presentation of traditions connected with grape harvest and performances of folklore groups were intended to highlight the need for preservation of traditions in modern times, as well as preservation of the wisdom and skill of our ancestors. These activities provided also space for the union of nations, for overcoming barriers and the creation of new interpersonal relationships. Linking of Europe's citizens was also served by the evening theatre performance and especially the rustic entertainment. During the day a discussion between the mayors with active citizens was also held, focusing on arousing greater interest of young people in public affairs.

The day of 04/09/2016 was dedicated to connecting traditions and current topics troubling Europe. In the morning, foreign guests visited vineyards and vine-cellars around the village. They admired not only the beautiful view of the cultivated country, as well as enjoyed quality homemade wine. The almost forgotten gastronomy of partner municipalities came into the fore. Skilled hands of cooks brought traditional meals to the citizens and reminded citizens of their childhood and showed the young generation that even in the past, delicious dishes were prepared. The fair of folk crafts was another of the series of activities devoted to traditions. The afternoon focused on current and serious topics. Gradually issues such as volunteering, foreigners and migration came to the fore. Within volunteering the work of civil society organizations from the partner municipalities and possibilities of becoming involved were presented. By offers of volunteering mainly young participants were addressed, which partially influenced their attitudes and opinions. The debate on foreigners with foreigners was linked to learning about the life of foreigners in Slovakia and the impact of migration on society. Thanks to this, the present participants found out that many foreigners live among us and got to know their life stories. The program Messages for Europe was carried out in the same spirit, where conception solutions for migration crisis were searched for from below, from civic initiations. In the evening home and regional folklore was presented, which completed the introduction of traditions to the broad masses of EU population. The competition and summary in the conclusion were only confirmation of the excellence of the project in the partnership life.