

The project «With Active Citizenship to the Stronger EU – Koprivnički Ivanec 2019 » 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 190 citizens, notably 20 participants from the city of Koprivnički Ivanec (Croatia), 80 participants from the association "The society of authentic folklore" of Koprivnički Ivanec, 30 participants from the municipality of Demjén (Hungary), 30 participants from the municipality of Demandice, 30 participants from the municipality of Gdów (Poland).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Koprivnički Ivanec, Croatia, from 31/08/2019 to 02/09/2019

Short description:

The day of 31/08/2019 was dedicated to learn concrete information about benefits and opportunities that are given to the EU citizens, the achievements of the EU, the ways of local (regional) development, the benefits of EU policies, relationship between EU policies and national policies, influence of EU mechanism on member states. The participants got awareness what can be changed and what is the influence on local quality of citizens' lives. The presentation "Financial Management of European Resources" pointed out on the importance of cooperation in common projects and the important role of representatives twinning towns in active cooperation on international, national, regional and local level. The partnership of twinning towns was presented as the way of active support of EU principles. For participants were also prepared presentations focused on value and thoughts convergence, presentation of customs, traditions, formal and informal discussions involving all age groups to active participation on the program, presentation of cultural heritage, folk traditions as a tool of intercultural dialogue, promoting partnership values, common European roots, cooperation as a tool for building common Europe.

The day of 01/09/2019 was dedicated to introduction of active participation tools at EU level. Activities were focused on encouraging the EU citizens to become active creators of the future EU, feel and influence on its future and feel to be a co-responsible member. Citizens gained a practical perspective on how to influence things, why it matters to them and why EU citizens really care about it. For participants were also prepared activities focused on learning about cultures, traditions and customs of the peoples living in the EU, indicating the importance of respecting the diversity of the peoples living in the same Union, enhancing mutual understanding between European citizens, fostering intercultural dialogue, value of cultural heritage for society, its economic contribution (to the quality of life, social cohesion and intercultural dialogue), its role in European cultural diplomacy, the importance of its preservation for next generation. For children were prepared creative activities that support the process of education towards tolerance of diversity of nations in the EU. Children could see diversity of traditions, costumes, habits, language, geographical location of the Member states.

The day of 02/09/2019 was dedicated to public discuss forum on the theme „The future of the EU depends on us“. Citizens had been given an opportunity to express what kind of Europe they want and to outline their long term vision for the future of European integration. The participants had been asked to reflect on a new narrative for Europe, citizen-oriented forward-looking and positive, that would be more engaging for the younger generation in particular. They could also debate about concrete ways to create a more democratic Union. Through this activity the participants had opportunity to develop a stronger sense of ownership of the European project, to build a momentum for their active democratic participation. Participants had been encouraged to actively participate in the democratic life at the EU level and foster a sense of ownership for how the Union develops, how their visions of the EU future could come true.