

**The project « Unity in Times of Crises » 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 the participation of 300 citizens, notably 70 participants from Cherechiu (**Romania**), 25 participants from Dlha Ves (**Slovakia**), 25 participants from Motvarjevci (**Slovenia**), Kokád with 30 participants (**Hungary**), Újfehértó with 20 participants (**Hungary**), Felsőtelkes with 20 participants (**Hungary**), Szentgyörgyvölgye with 30 participants (**Hungary**), Öcsöd with 25 participants (**Hungary**), Naszály with 25 participants (**Hungary**) and Nyíradony with 30 participants (**Hungary**).

**Location/ Dates:** The venue of the meeting was Cherechiu (**Romania**) between 08/12/2022 and 08/14/2022.

**Short description:**

**The the day of 12/08/2022**, was dedicated to "Future through the eyes of the past" stimulated thinking about the advantages offered by belonging to the European Union - the democratic values that promote peace and the well-being of peoples - in comparison with the past (totalitarian regimes) and by Euroscepticism with a marked future.

- In the first half of the day, the participating settlements introduced themselves and the implementations and changes that have taken place in the settlements since the last meeting were presented. At the end of the presentations, Mayor Sándor Nyíri presented the program of the meeting.
- A documentary film was watched on the following topic: "The Red Catastrophe" - a harsh picture of Ceausist totalitarianism through the eyes of a Westerner in the dark years before the revolution;
- Debate on the topic "The importance of European citizenship" - we increased awareness of the importance of transnational citizenship between EU borders
- The participants exchanged opinions and experiences on the subject of "Euroscepticism - national desire or political will" - the role and crucial importance of participation through individual voting in relation to EU policies
- In the rest of the evening, the attendees took part in events related to getting to know each other's traditions.

The theme of the day contributed to the specific Priority 1 - "Debating the future of Europe and the challenges of Euroscepticism" and the general objectives: "Contributing to citizens' understanding of the Union, its history and diversity" and "promoting European citizenship, civic and conditions for democratic participation at the level of the Union".

**The day of 08/13/2022**, was dedicated to "Above prejudices - current issues". It covered discussions about current and various problematic situations within the EU, such as the phenomenon of migration and the situation of ethnic minorities.

- Debate on the topic "The phenomenon of migration in the European Union - tolerance and solidarity" - reflection on the different approaches to the migration of European, especially Asian migrants
- Discussion was about the "marginalization of ethnic minorities" - Which by its nature helped to remove some negative mentalities and equally opened the way for inter-ethnic dialogues
- In the afternoon, a cog-driving parade took place, where the cog-drivers from the area presented their skills, their cogs and their beautiful horses.
- The exchange of views was on the topic of "Daily problems of citizens - shared experiences" - a suitable framework for free discussions about the difficulties faced by the individual communities present at the event in their daily lives.
- At the end of the evening, the participants admired the fireworks

The theme of the day contributed to the 3rd priority - "Promoting intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding and combating the stigmatization of migrants and minority groups" and the specific objective of "encouraging citizens' democratic and civil participation at the EU level".

**The day of 08/14/2022**, was dedicated to "Unity through culture" introduced the importance of cultural dialogue between the different communities of the EU.

- On this day, the focus was primarily on cultural values. During the morning, we organized a cooking competition, within the framework of which each participating townst prepared its national and regional food and presented its national drink.
- "Dialogue between cultures" creative workshop - each of the communities presented their works typical of the given area or country.
- Cooking course - each participating country prepared dishes typical of their area or country.
- Exchange of views on the topic "Unity through diversity - Exploiting transnational relations" - it was desirable to strengthen joint efforts to develop the concept of European identity.
- A town twinning celebration was held with the town of Nyíradony from Hungary

In the evening, the representatives of the towns evaluated the series of events and discussed the possible date and theme of the next year's meeting.

It was the 2nd specific priority - "Fostering solidarity in times of crisis" and the 3rd - "Promoting intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding" from the multi-annual priority "Democratic engagement and civic participation" and "encouraging the democratic and civic participation of citizens" from the 2nd specific objective, through actions at the level of the Union that improved citizens' understanding of the Union's political decision-making process".